NO.1 JULY-AUG

The Funniest Animals Of All Appear

IN ANIMAL FABLES

AN EC COMIC

48 PAGES IN FULL COLOR 10¢

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The Funniest Animals Of All Appear in

ANIMAL FABLES

FREDDY, THE FIREFLY—When meek little Freddy says the magic words —"TAKE FIRE!"—he becomes the hottest thing on the wing—mighty FIREFLY! But even FIREFLY himself is a suspect when the fabulous Jonker Diamond is reported missing—and it is then that he sets out to blaze a crimson trail in search of the criminals!

KORKY KANGROO — Look out, Herbie Hippo! KORKY KANGROO is cooking up another plot against you. We can't tell you what it is, but we're SURE it means trouble with a capital "T"!

PETEY PIG—All PETEY PIG wanted to do was to go to the movies. Sounds simple, doesn't it? That's what Petey thought — but then look what happened!

DANNY DEMON — School is a place where children are taught to be good. Or so DANNY DEMON thought — until he attended class in Mr. Fiend's unique School for Evil!

HECTOR THE INSPECTOR—Can even the most famous sleuth in the animal kingdom capture Dangerous Dan — when Hector knows there is a million-dollar reward on his OWN head?

WILLIE THE WEASEL — Spend a quiet day at home with WILLIE THE WEASEL — and don't forget to make out your will, and pay the last premium on your life insurance!

BOZO the BOW-LEGGED BULL—Alexo is the greatest bull in all Mexico—he says so himself. But what will happen when Alexo's nervous assistant—BOZO—takes Alexo's place in the arena to duel with Salvador the Matador?

COMING IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!

In Animal Fables No. 2, we bring you three great stories, adapted from the famous AESOP'S FABLES!

The Fable of THE FOX AND THE GRAPES

The Fable of THE LION AND THE MOUSE

The Fable of THE FROG AND THE OX

Don't miss these exciting new features. Be sure to watch for Animal Fables No. 2 at your favorite newsstand!

Animal Fables, July-August, 1946—Volume 1, No. 1. Published Bi-monthly by Fables Publishing Co., Inc. at 225 Lafayette St., New York 12, N. Y. Application as second class matter pending at the Post Office at New York, N. Y. One year subscriptions in the U. S. 60¢ plus 15¢ for postage—Total 75¢—elsewhere $1.50 Entire contents copyrighted 1946 by M. C. Gaines. Printed in U. S. A.

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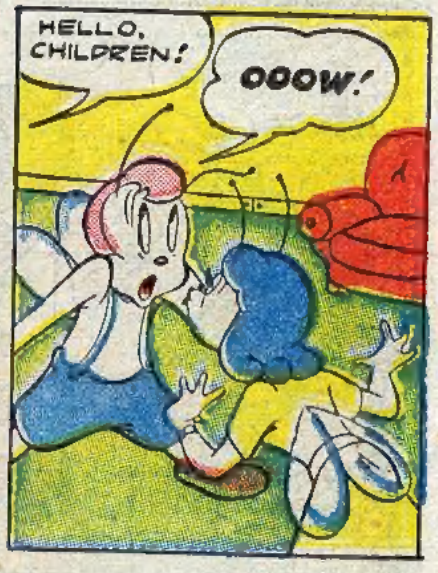
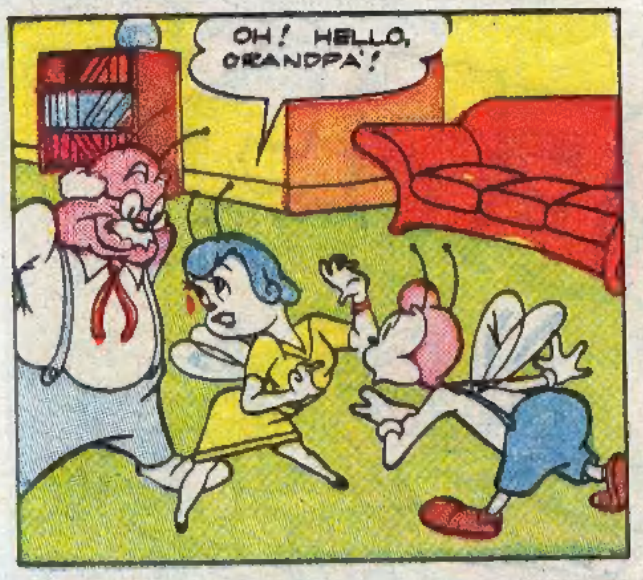
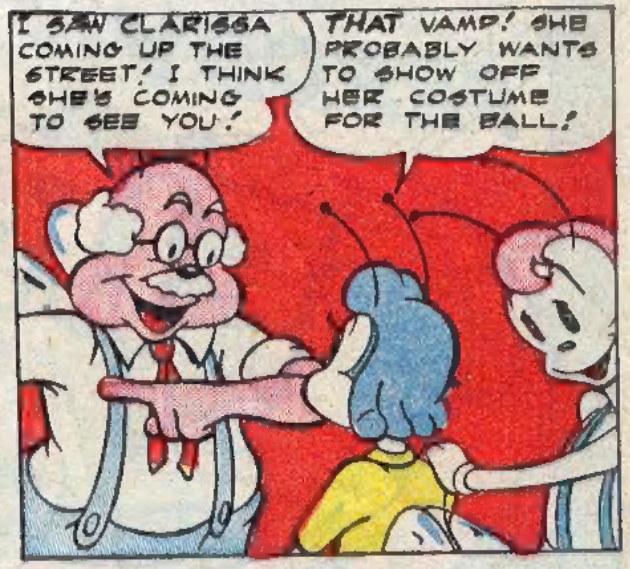
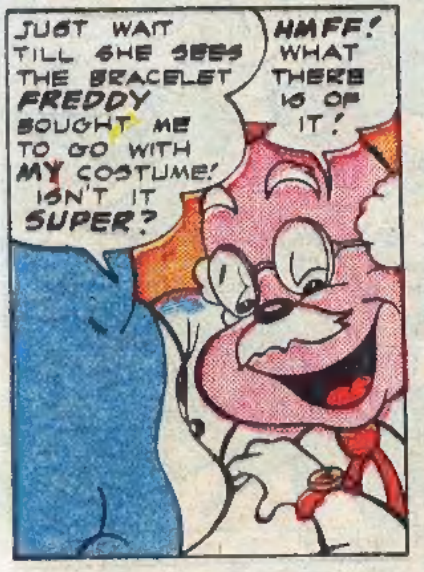
FREDDY FIREFLY

WHEN MEEK LITTLE FREDDY SAYS THE MAGIC WORDS -- "TAKE FIRE"! HE BECOMES THE HOTTEST THING ON THE WING -- MIGHTY FIREFLY HIMSELF!




OH! HELLO, GRANDPA!


I SAW CLARISSA COMING UP THE STREET! I THINK SHE'S COMING TO SEE YOU!
THAT VAMP! SHE PROBABLY WANTS TO SHOW OFF HER COSTUME FOR THE BALL!


JUST WAIT TILL SHE SEES THE BRACELET FREDDY BOUGHT ME TO GO WITH MY COSTUME! ISN'T IT SUPER?
HMFF! WHAT THERE IS OF IT!

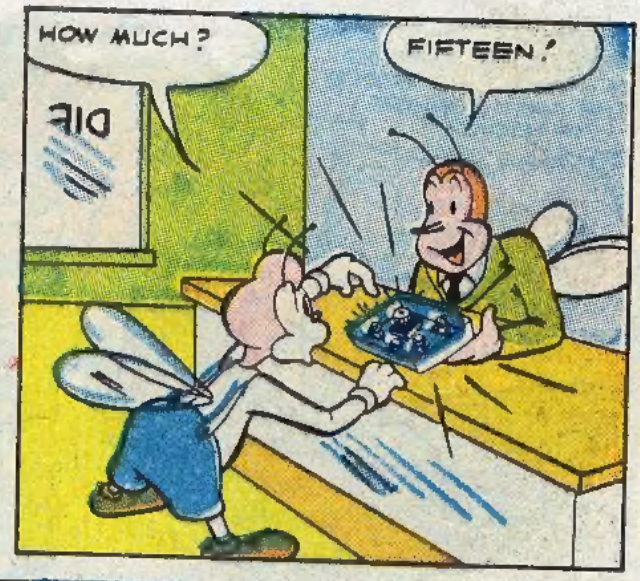
WHEAH HAVE YOU BEEN KEEPING YOAHSELF DEAREST MYRTLE?
COME IN, CLARISSA!

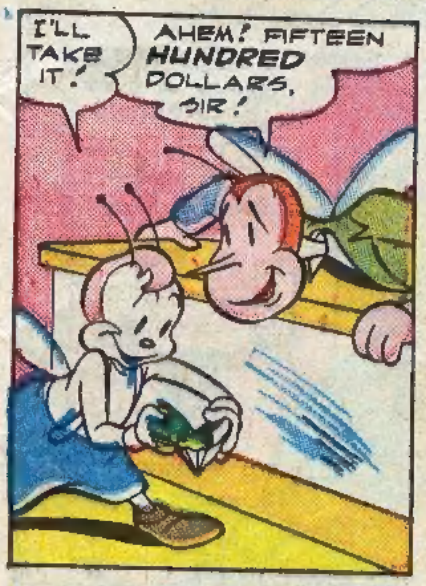
I WANT YOU TO SEE ... OH!
WHAT IS IT, MY DEAH?

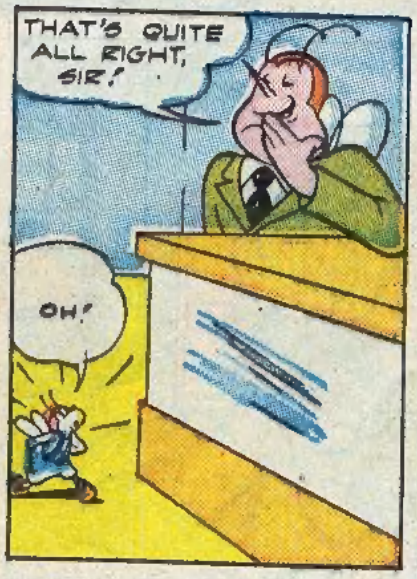
ER-- I THINK YOUR BRACELET IS LOVELY, CLARISSA!
THIS BAUBLE! MY DEAH, IT'S HARDLY WORTH MENTIONING! THOUGH I SUPPOSE IT WILL CAUSE A SENSATION AT THE BALL!

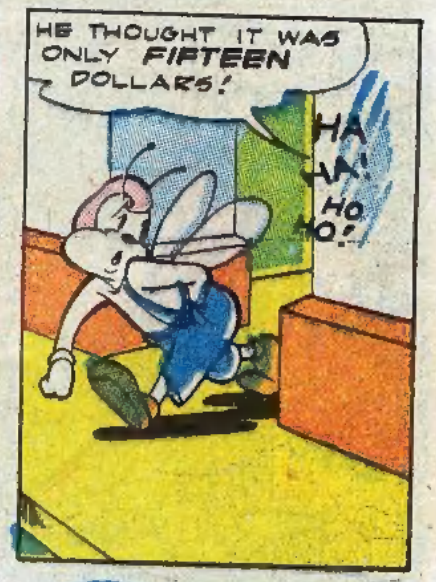
GEE WHIZ! CLARISSA'S DIAMOND BRACELET WOULD BLIND A MAN UNLESS HE WORE DARK GLASSES!

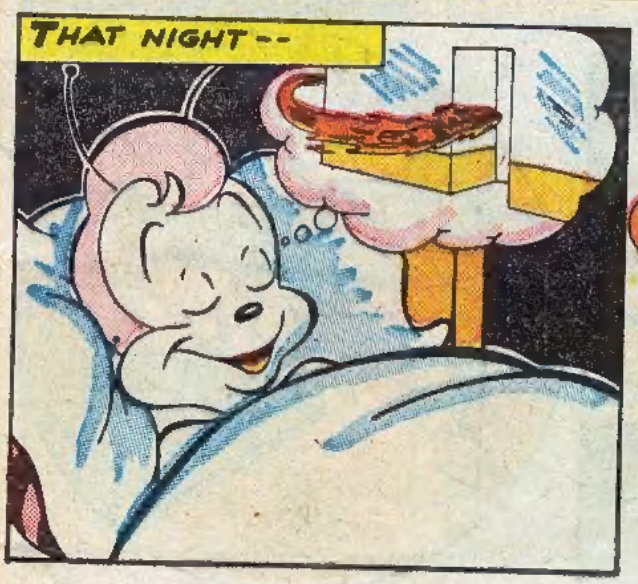
DIFFANY
DIAMONDS
I JUST GOTTA BUY MYRTLE A DIAMOND SHE WON'T BE ASHAMED TO WEAR TO THE BALL!


HOW MUCH?
FIFTEEN!

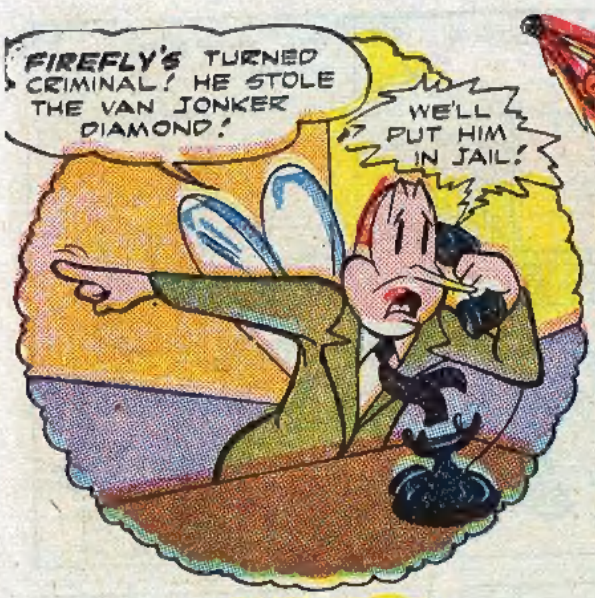

I'LL TAKE IT!
AHEM! FIFTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS, SIR!

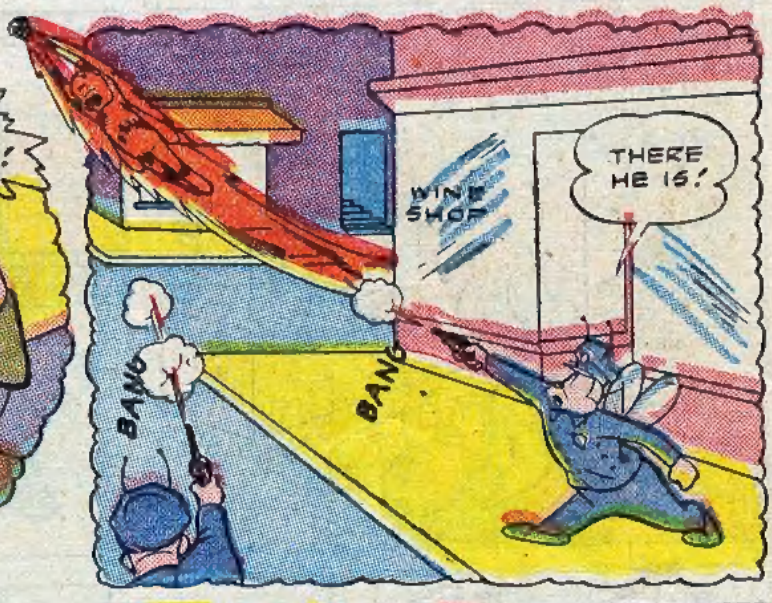

THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT, SIR!
OH!

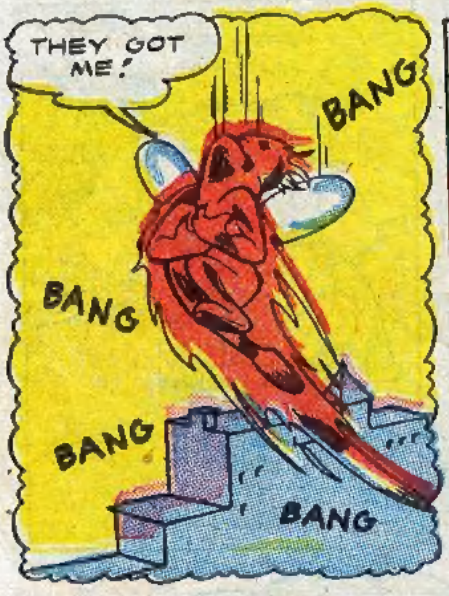

HE THOUGHT IT WAS ONLY FIFTEEN DOLLARS!
HA HA! HO HO!

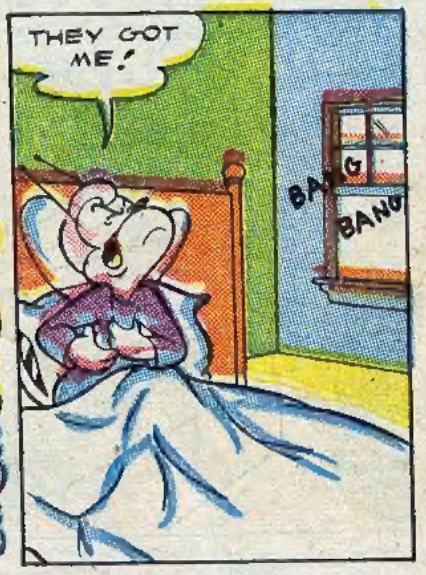

THAT NIGHT --

HELP!


FIREFLY'S TURNED CRIMINAL! HE STOLE THE VAN JONKER DIAMOND!
WE'LL PUT HIM IN JAIL!

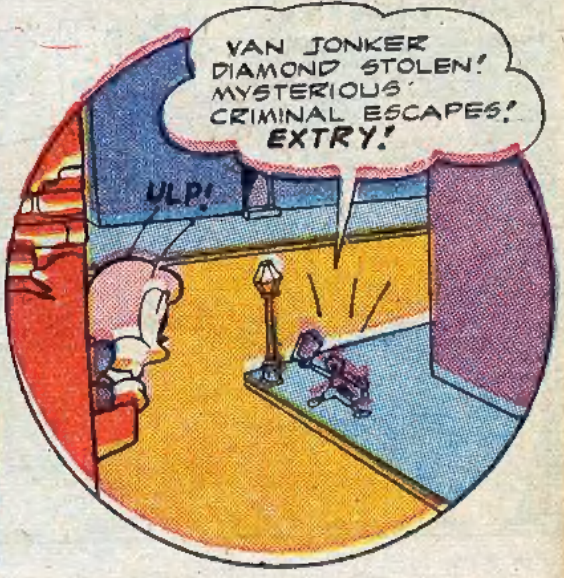

THERE HE IS!
WINE SHOP
BANG
BANG

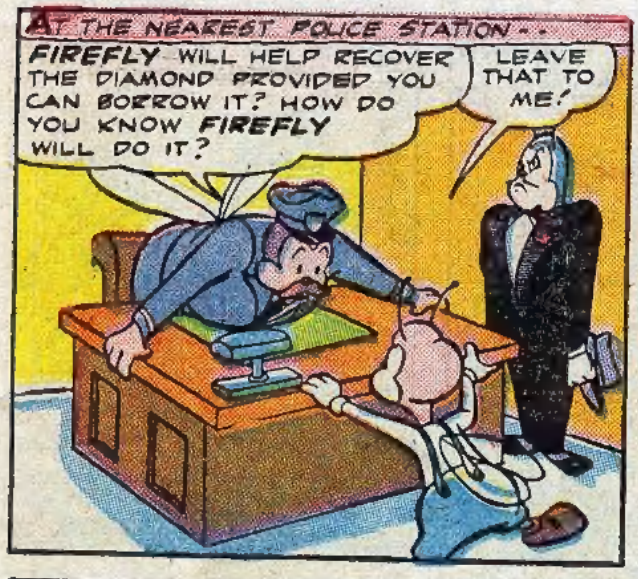

THEY GOT ME!
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG


THEY GOT ME!
BANG
BANG

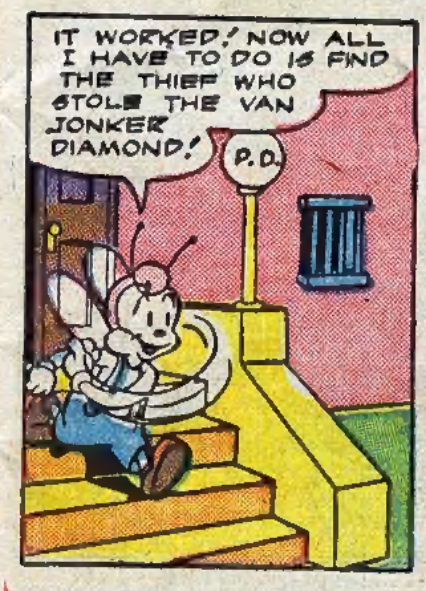
WHEW! IT WAS ONLY A CAR BACKFIRING!
BANG

THANK GOODNESS IT WAS ONLY A DREAM! IMAGINE FIREFLY TURNING CROOK! IT'S RIDICULOUS!
EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT! EXTRA

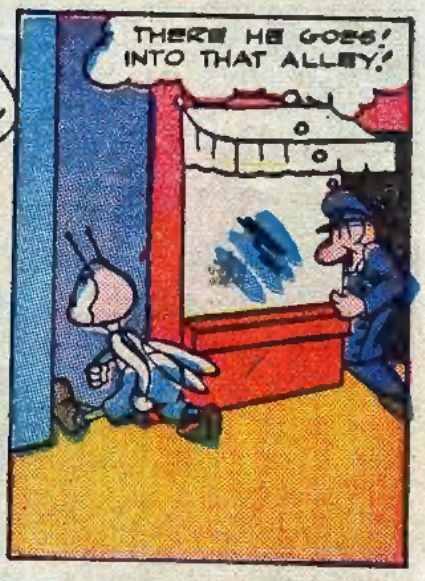

VAN JONKER DIAMOND STOLEN! MYSTERIOUS CRIMINAL ESCAPES! EXTRY!
ULP!


AT THE NEAREST POLICE STATION - -
FIREFLY WILL HELP RECOVER THE DIAMOND PROVIDED YOU CAN BORROW IT? HOW DO YOU KNOW FIREFLY WILL DO IT?
LEAVE THAT TO ME!

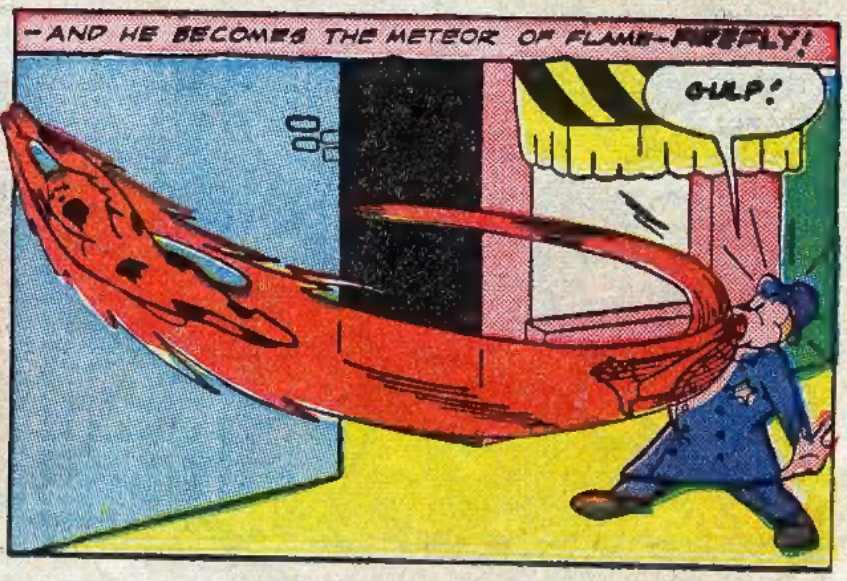
YOU OWN THE DIAMOND, COUNT DE NAWSTY! WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT'S A GOOD IDEA! I'LL DO ANYTHING TO RECOVER THE VAN JONKER DIAMOND!


IT WORKED! NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND THE THIEF WHO STOLE THE VAN JONKER DIAMOND!
P.D.

FOLLOW HIM! HE'S EITHER CRAZY OR HE KNOWS WHO STOLE THE DIAMOND!
RIGHT SERGEANT!

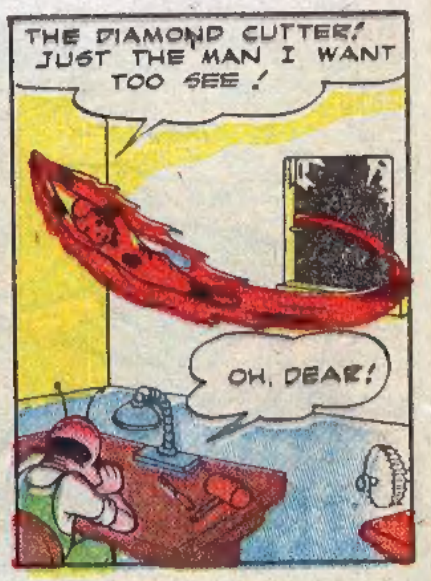

THERE HE GOES! INTO THAT ALLEY!

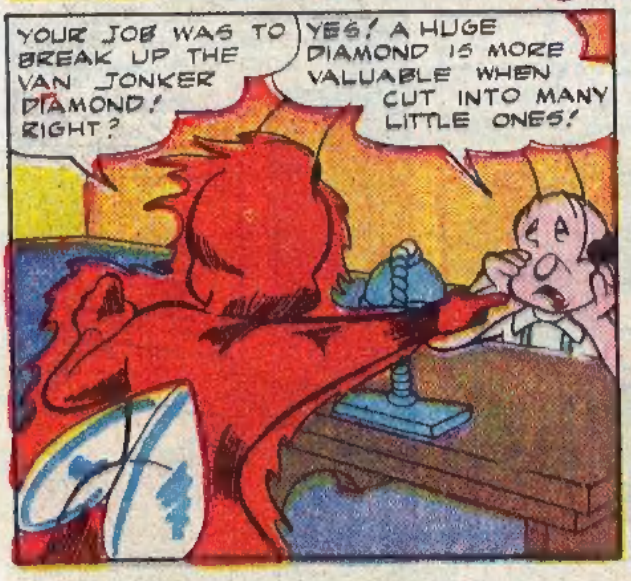
SAFELY HIDDEN FROM VIEW, FREDDY PRONOUNCES THE MAGIC WORDS - -
TAKE FIRE!

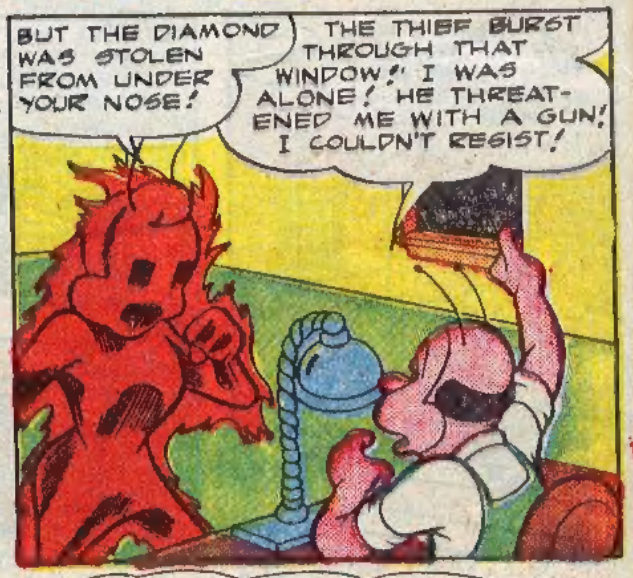

- AND HE BECOMES THE METEOR OF FLAME - FIREFLY!
GULP!

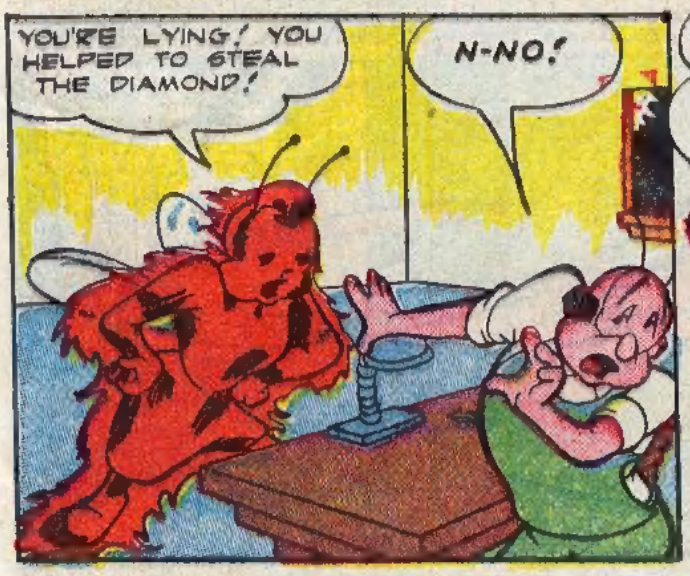
FIREFLY CAME OUT AND THE LITTLE GUY IS GONE!

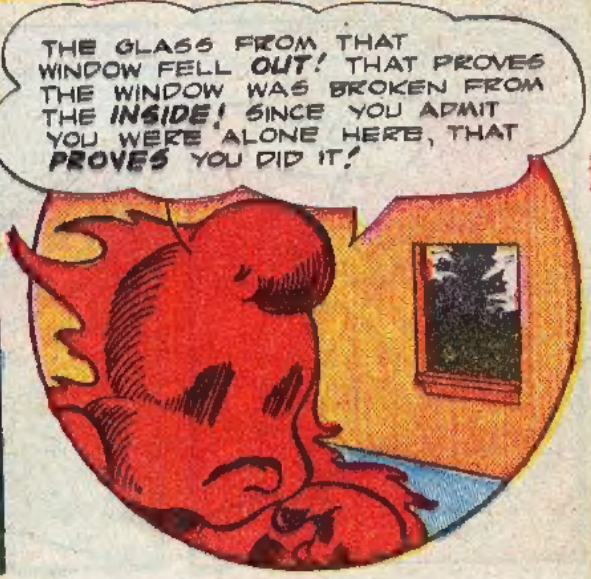
OHH! I JUST KNOW THE SERGEANT WON'T BELIEVE THIS! IN FACT, I DON'T BELIEVE IT MYSELF!


THE DIAMOND CUTTER! JUST THE MAN I WANT TOO SEE!
OH, DEAR!

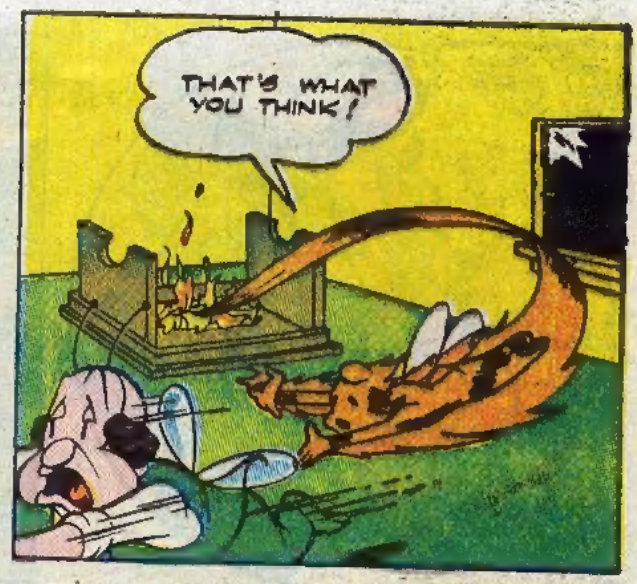

YOUR JOB WAS TO BREAK UP THE VAN JONKER DIAMOND! RIGHT?
YES! A HUGE DIAMOND IS MORE VALUABLE WHEN CUT INTO MANY LITTLE ONES!


BUT THE DIAMOND WAS STOLEN FROM UNDER YOUR NOSE!
THE THIEF BURST THROUGH THAT WINDOW! I WAS ALONE! HE THREATENED ME WITH A GUN! I COULDN'T RESIST!


YOU'RE LYING! YOU HELPED TO STEAL THE DIAMOND!
N-NO!


THE GLASS FROM THAT WINDOW FELL OUT! THAT PROVES THE WINDOW WAS BROKEN FROM THE INSIDE! SINCE YOU ADMIT YOU WERE ALONE HERE, THAT PROVES YOU DID IT!

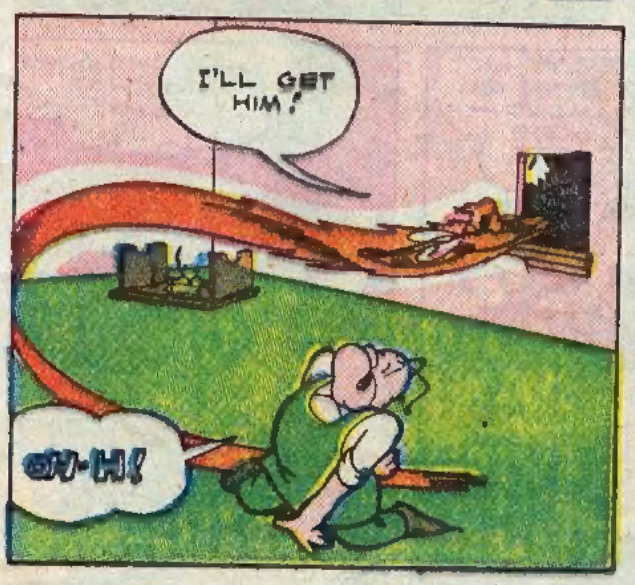
YOU WON'T TAKE ME TO PRISON!


THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!

WOULD YOU LIKE A HOT TOWEL AND A CLOSE SHAVE?
YEEOWW!

TAKE THAT FIRE AWAY! I'LL TALK! I DIDN'T STEAL THE DIAMOND! IT WAS...

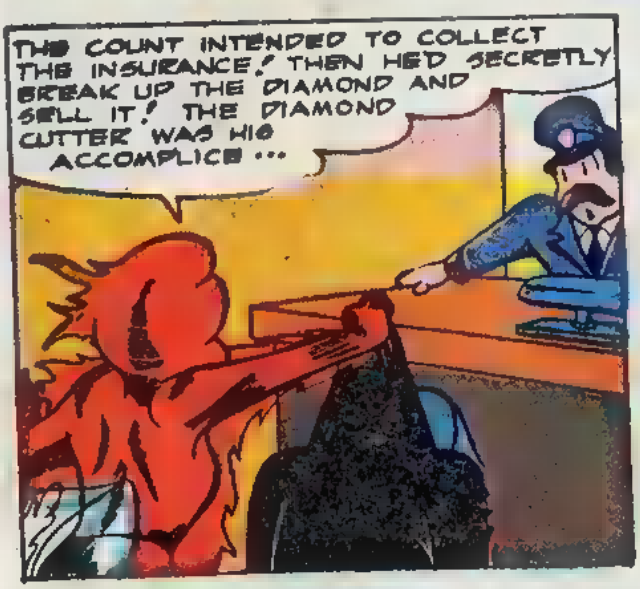
BANG

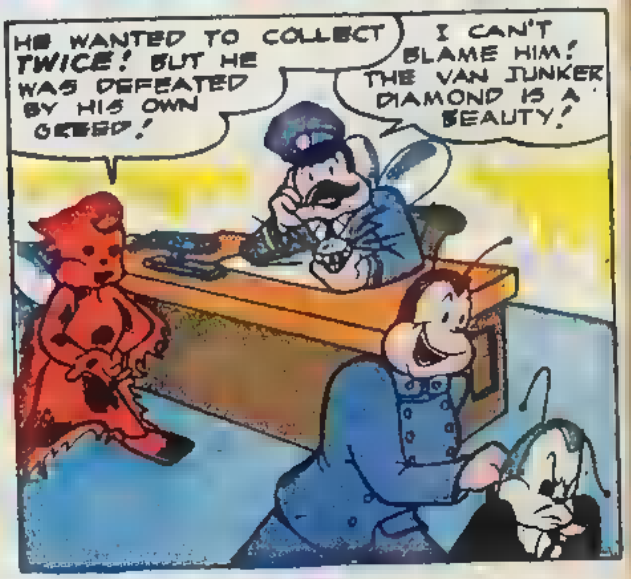

I'LL GET HIM!
OW-H!

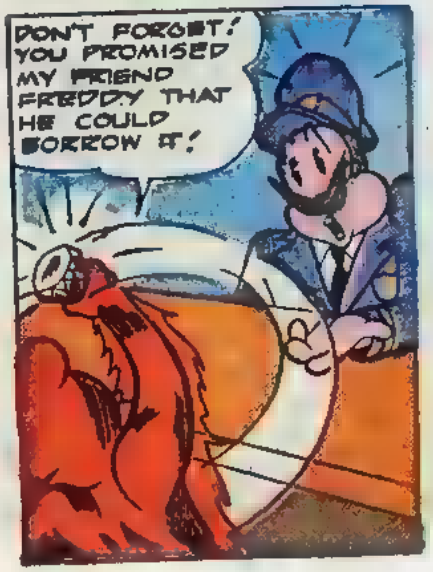
NO GAIN ON THIS PLAY!

I BET THIS WILL BURN YOU UP!
SOCK!

COUNT DE NAWGTY! YOU STOLE THE DIAMOND FROM YOURSELF!


THE COUNT INTENDED TO COLLECT THE INSURANCE! THEN HE'D SECRETLY BREAK UP THE DIAMOND AND SELL IT! THE DIAMOND CUTTER WAS HIS ACCOMPLICE ...


HE WANTED TO COLLECT TWICE! BUT HE WAS DEFEATED BY HIS OWN GREED!
I CAN'T BLAME HIM! THE VAN JUNKER DIAMOND IS A BEAUTY!


DON'T FORGET! YOU PROMISED MY FRIEND FREDDY THAT HE COULD BORROW IT!

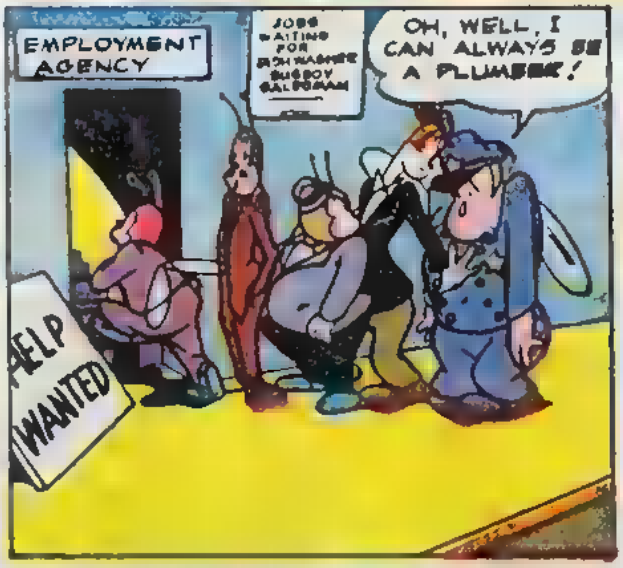
FOLLOW FIREFLY! WE CAN'T TRUST EVEN HIM WITH THE DIAMOND ... IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG THIS TIME, YOU'RE FIRED!
RIGHT SERGEANT!

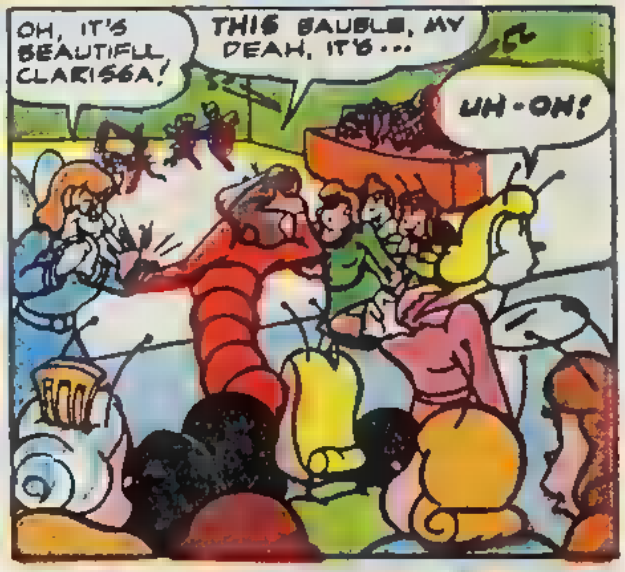
THERE HE GOES! INTO THAT ALLEY!

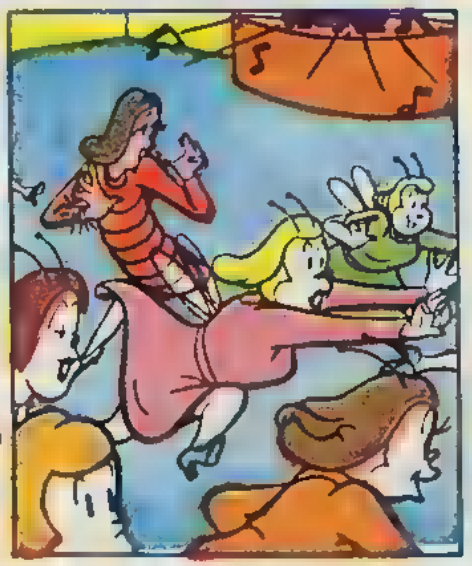
HELLO, OFFICER!
GULP!

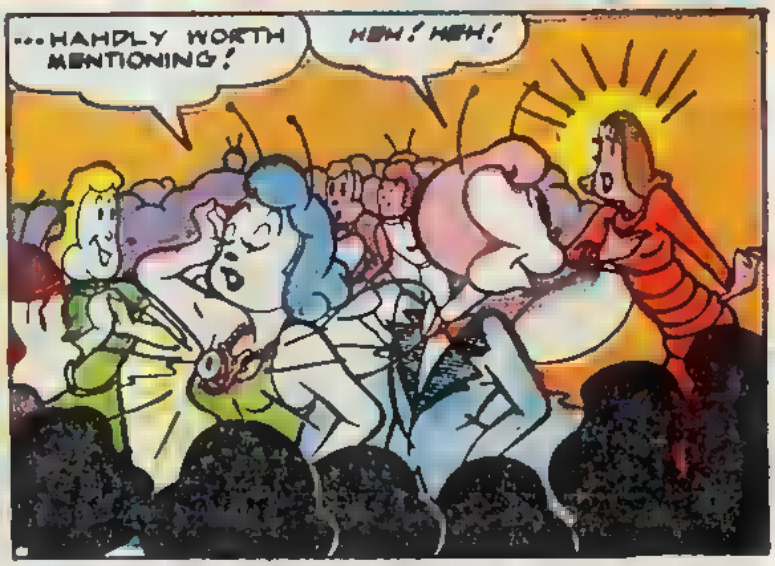
TELL THE SERGEANT I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE DIAMOND!

NOW FIREFLY'S DISAPPEARED! OFCOURSE!

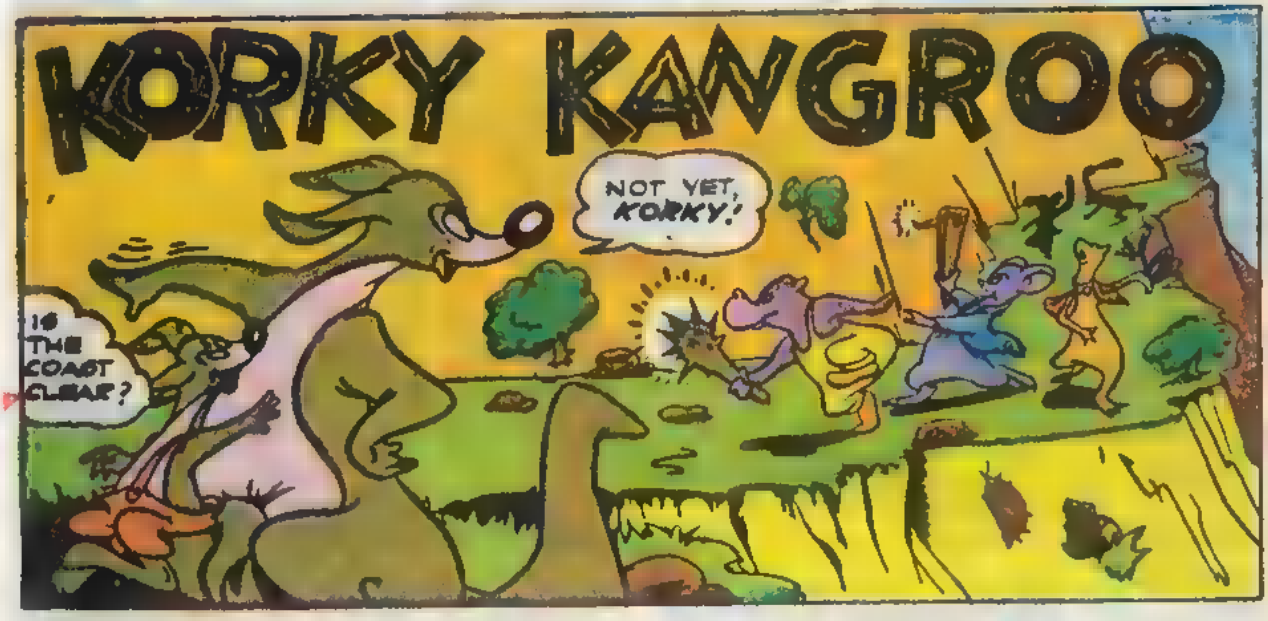

EMPLOYMENT AGENCY
JOBS WAITING FOR ROWDIES BUGBOY GALPGAM
OH, WELL, I CAN ALWAYS BE A PLUMBER!
HELP WANTED

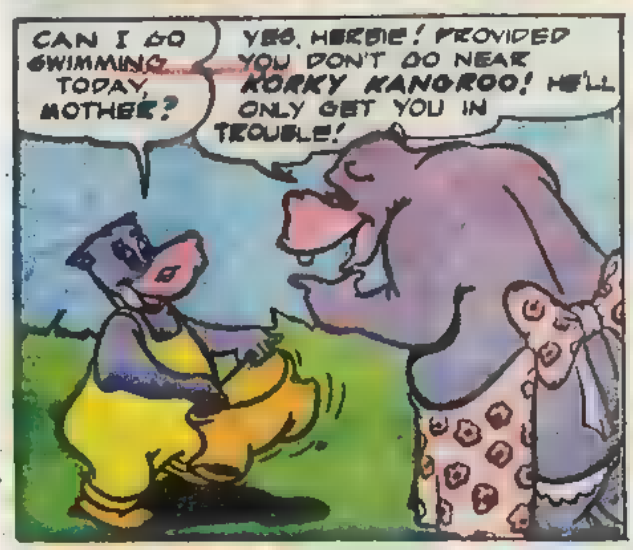

OH, IT'S BEAUTIFUL CLARISSA!
THIS BAUBLE, MY DEAR, IT'S...
UH-OH!

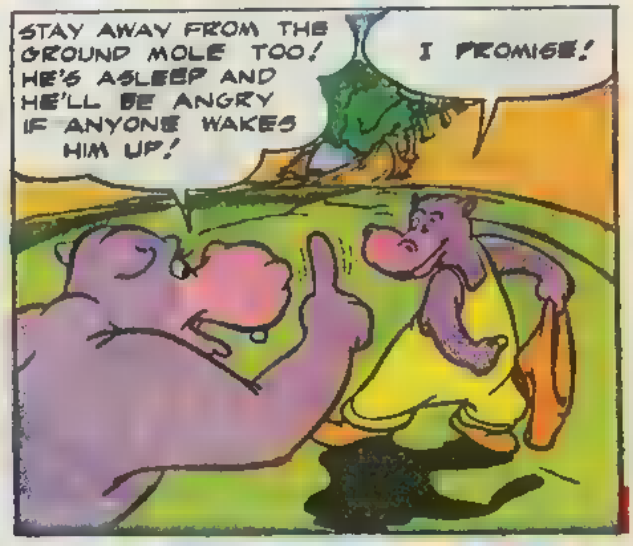


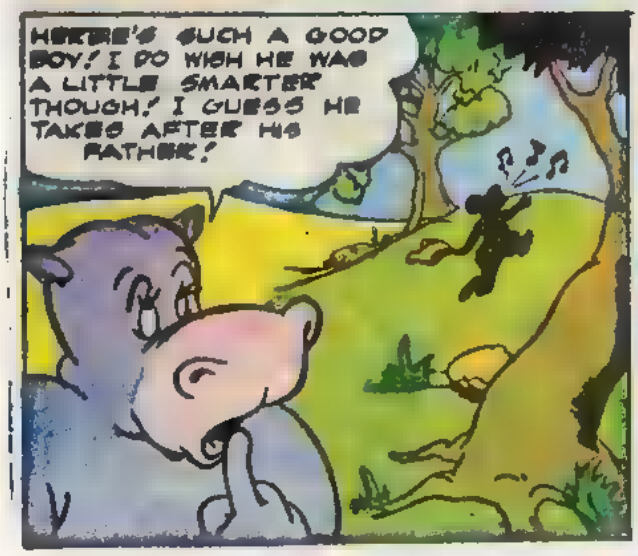

...HARDLY WORTH MENTIONING!
HEH! HEH!

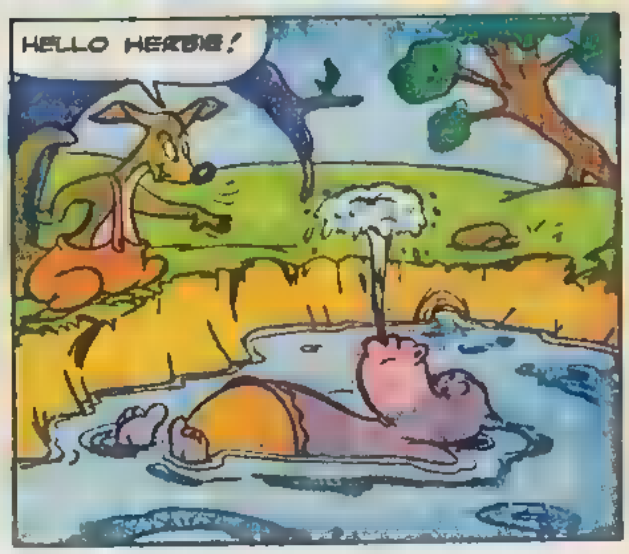
KORKY KANGROO

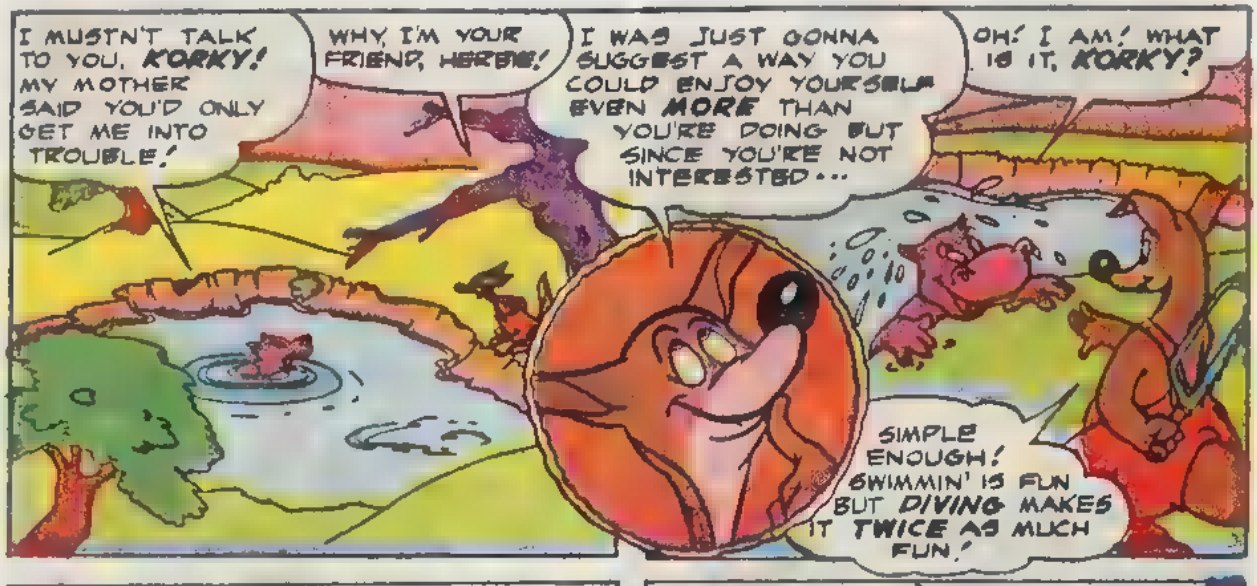


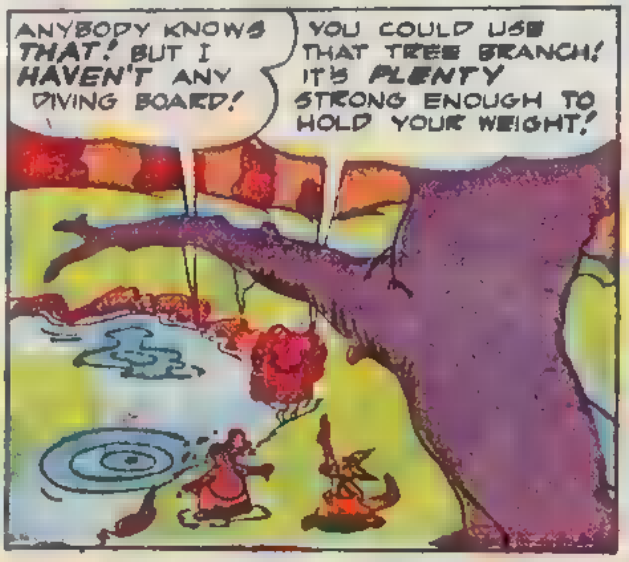


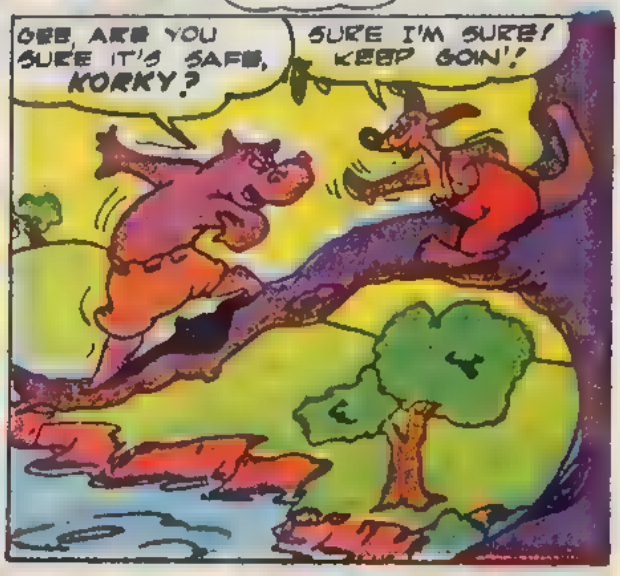


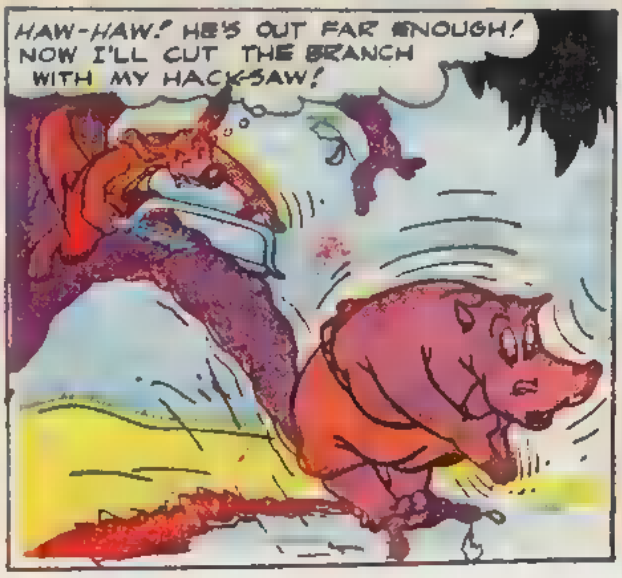




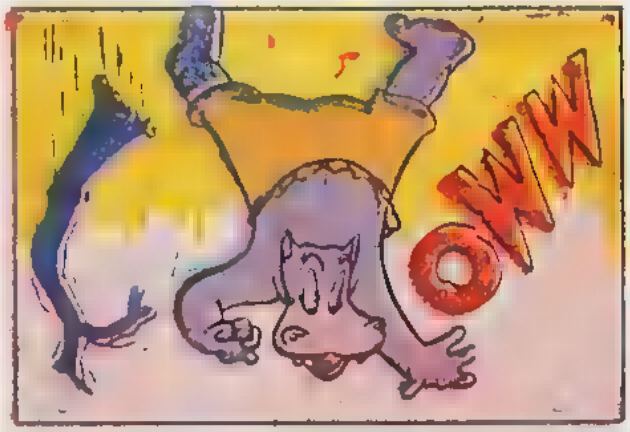

I MUSTN'T TALK TO YOU, KORKY! MY MOTHER SAID YOU'D ONLY GET ME INTO TROUBLE!
WHY, I'M YOUR FRIEND, HERBIE!
I WAS JUST GONNA SUGGEST A WAY YOU COULD ENJOY YOURSELF EVEN MORE THAN YOU'RE DOING BUT SINCE YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED...
OH! I AM! WHAT IS IT, KORKY?
SIMPLE ENOUGH! SWIMMIN' IS FUN BUT DIVING MAKES IT TWICE AS MUCH FUN!

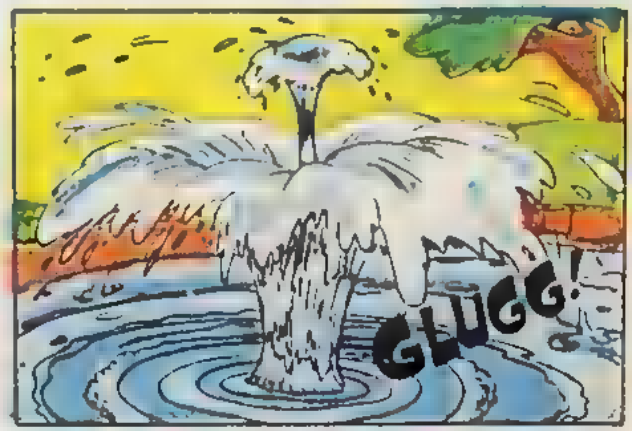

ANYBODY KNOWS THAT! BUT I HAVEN'T ANY DIVING BOARD!
YOU COULD USE THAT TREE BRANCH! IT'S PLENTY STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD YOUR WEIGHT!

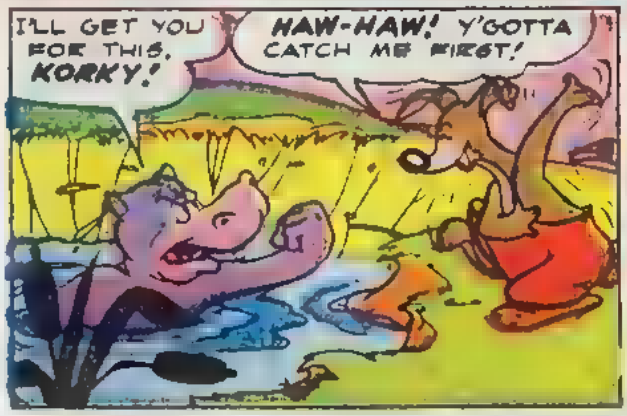

GEE, ARE YOU SURE IT'S SAFE, KORKY?
SURE I'M SURE! KEEP GOIN'!

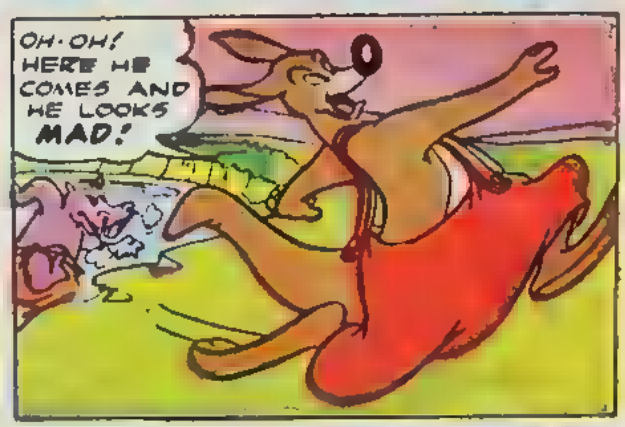

HAW-HAW! HE'S OUT FAR ENOUGH! NOW I'LL CUT THE BRANCH WITH MY HACK-SAW!

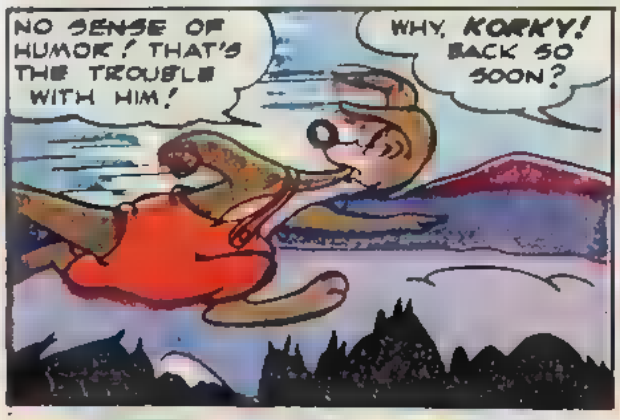
HEY-- WHAT'S HAPPENING?
CR-RACK!

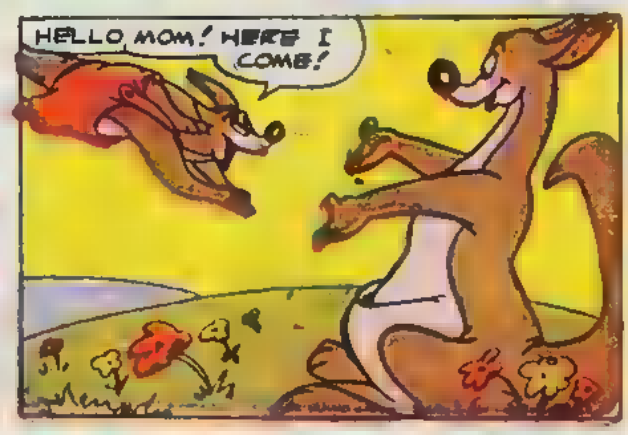

OWW

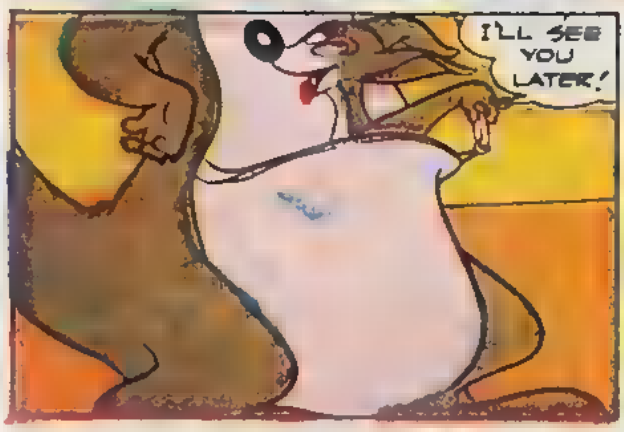

GLUGG!

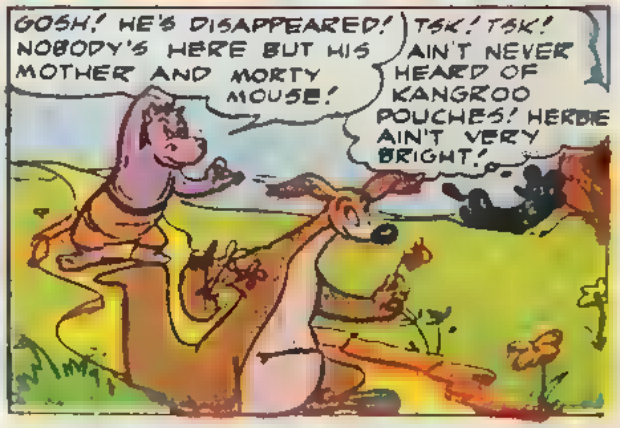

I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS, KORKY!
HAW-HAW! Y'GOTTA CATCH ME FIRST!

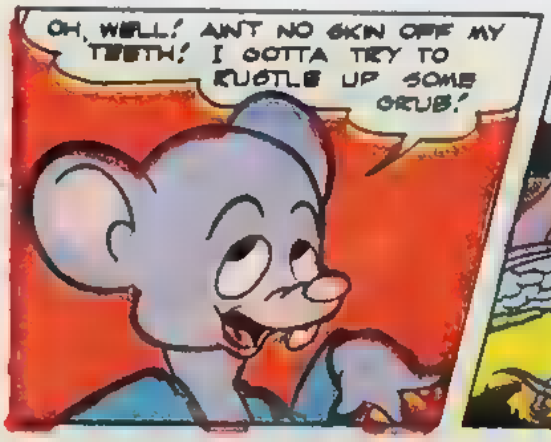

OH-OH! HERE HE COMES AND HE LOOKS MAD!

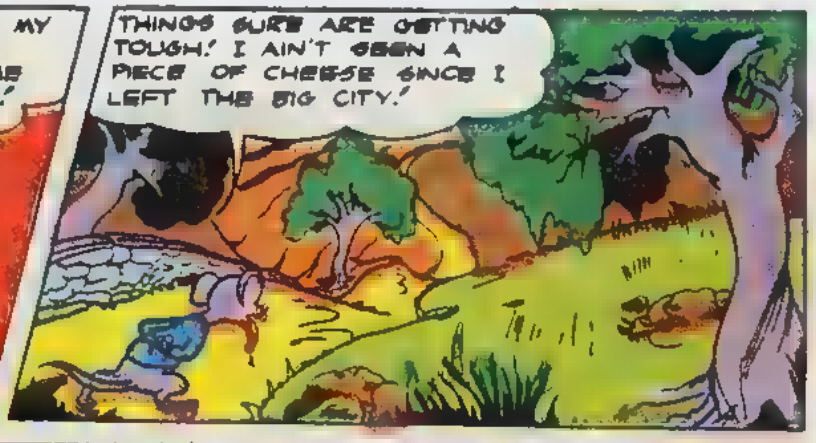

NO SENSE OF HUMOR! THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH HIM!
WHY, KORKY! BACK SO SOON?

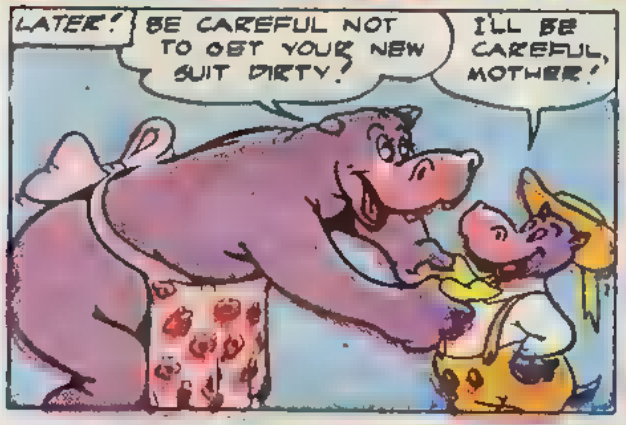

HELLO, MOM! HERE I COME!

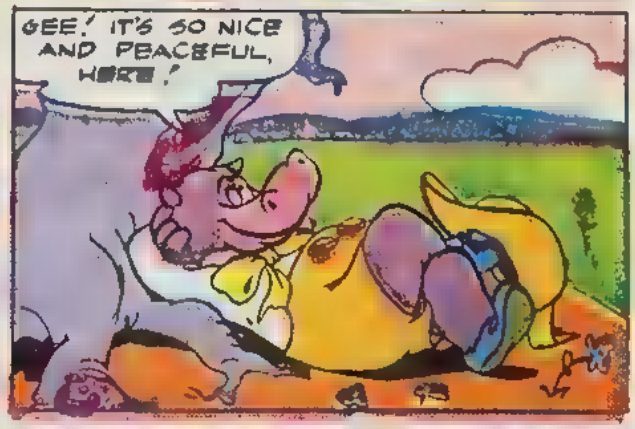

I'LL SEE YOU LATER!

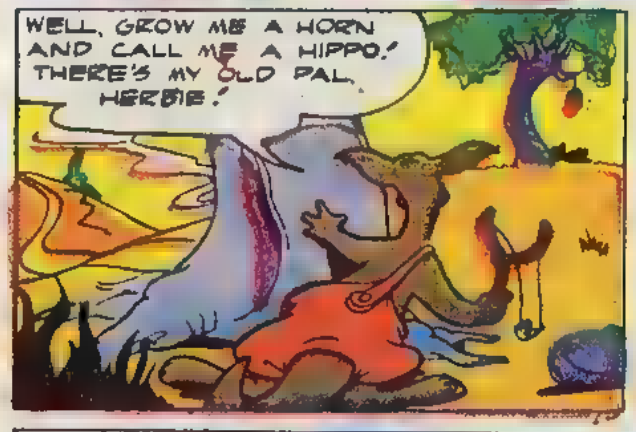

GOSH! HE'S DISAPPEARED! NOBODY'S HERE BUT HIS MOTHER AND MORTY MOUSE!
TSK! TSK! AIN'T NEVER HEARD OF KANGROO POUCHES! HERBIE AIN'T VERY BRIGHT!

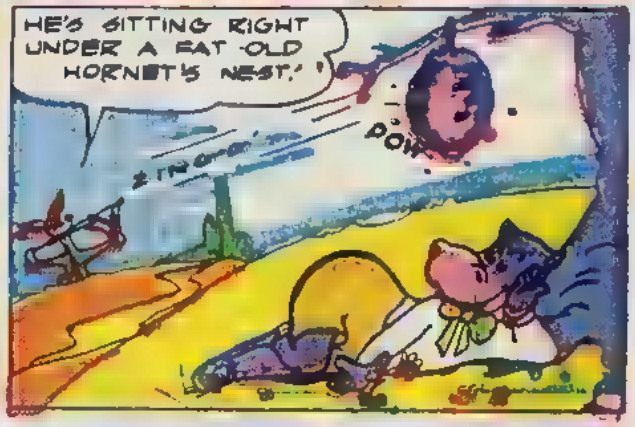

OH, WELL! AIN'T NO SKIN OFF MY TEETH! I GOTTA TRY TO RUSTLE UP SOME GRUB!

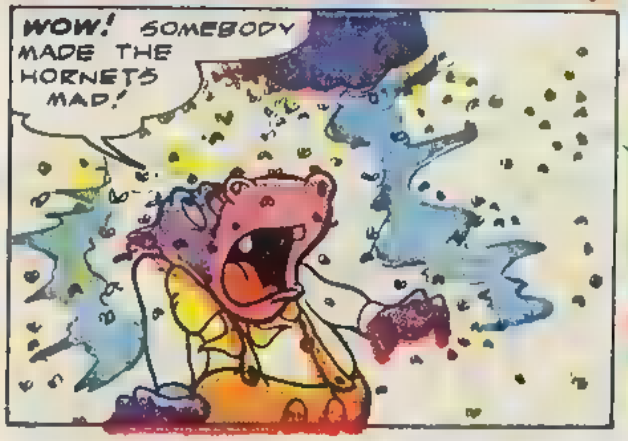

THINGS SURE ARE GETTING TOUGH! I AIN'T SEEN A PIECE OF CHEESE SINCE I LEFT THE BIG CITY!

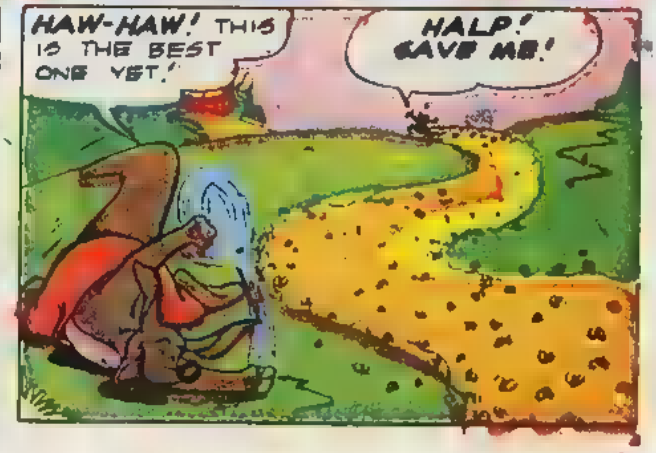

LATER!
BE CAREFUL NOT TO GET YOUR NEW SUIT DIRTY!
I'LL BE CAREFUL, MOTHER!

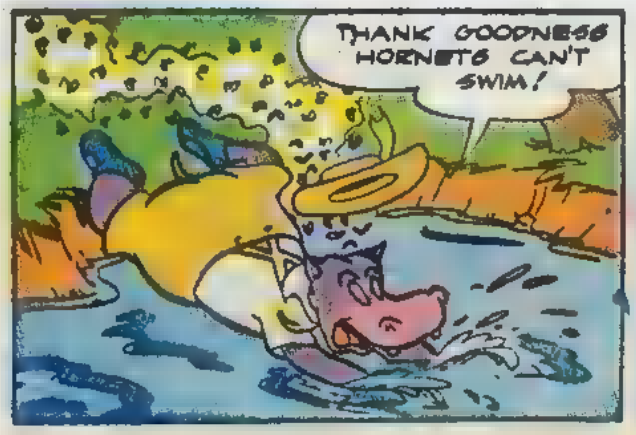

GEE! IT'S SO NICE AND PEACEFUL, HERE!

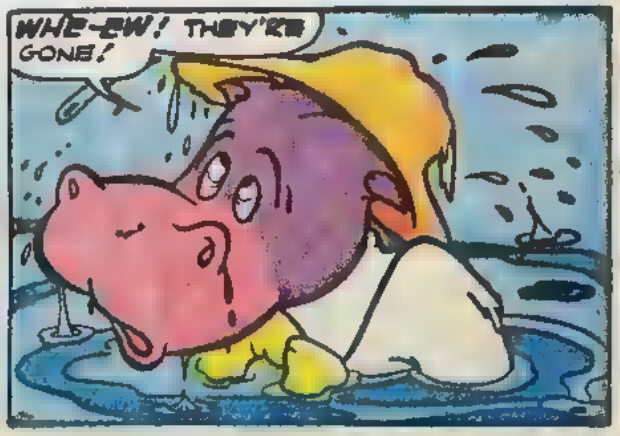

WELL, GROW ME A HORN AND CALL ME A HIPPO! THERE'S MY OLD PAL, HERBIE!

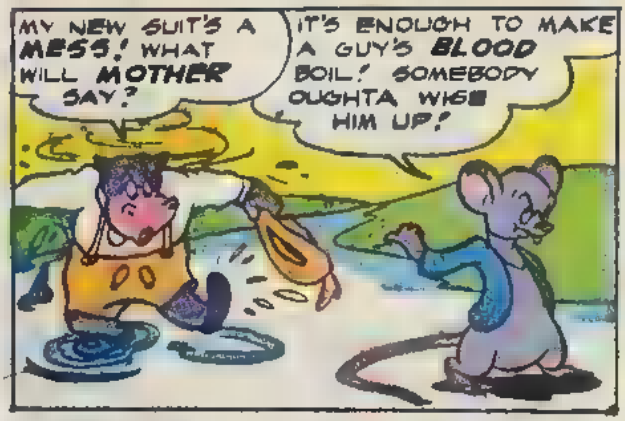

HE'S SITTING RIGHT UNDER A FAT OLD HORNET'S NEST!
DOW
ZINGO

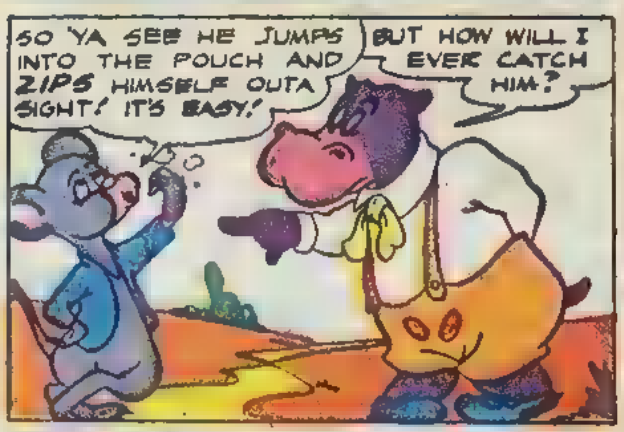

WOW! SOMEBODY MADE THE HORNETS MAD!

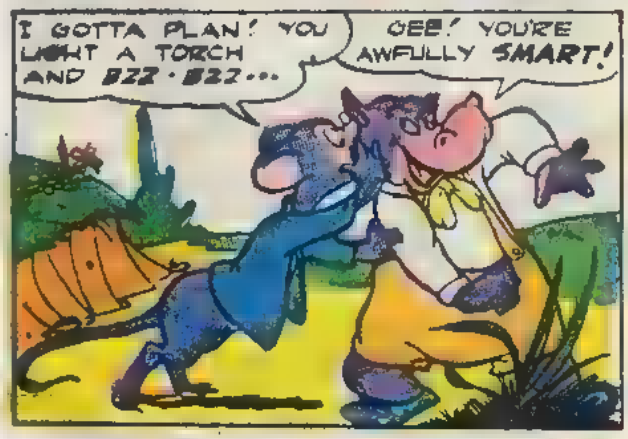

HAW-HAW! THIS IS THE BEST ONE YET!
HALP! SAVE ME!

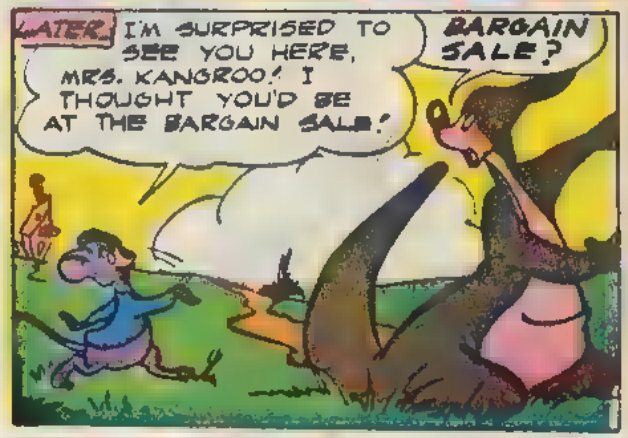

THANK GOODNESS HORNETS CAN'T SWIM!

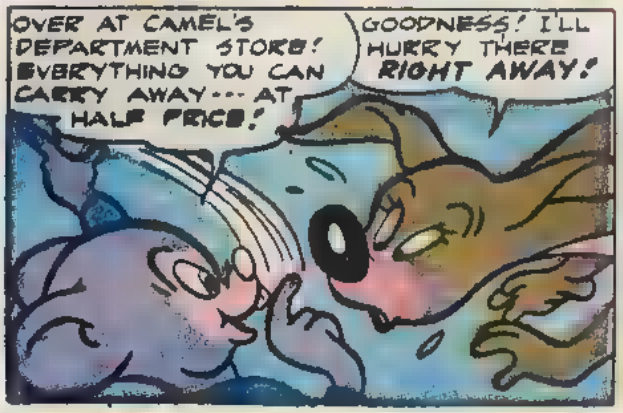

WHE-EW! THEY'RE GONE!

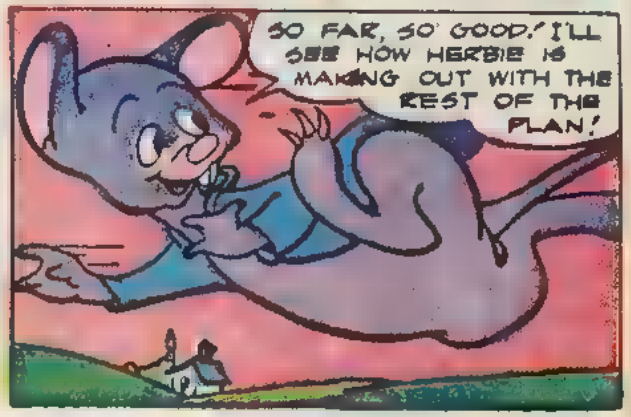

MY NEW SUIT'S A MESS! WHAT WILL MOTHER SAY?
IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE A GUY'S BLOOD BOIL! SOMEBODY OUGHTA WIGG HIM UP!

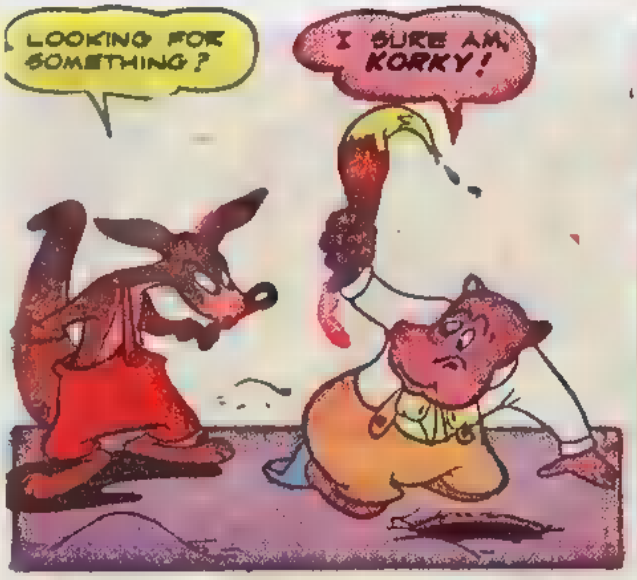

SO YA SEE HE JUMPS INTO THE POUCH AND ZIPS HIMSELF OUTA SIGHT! IT'S EASY!
BUT HOW WILL I EVER CATCH HIM?


I GOTTA PLAN! YOU LIGHT A TORCH AND BZZ · BZZ...
GEE! YOU'RE AWFULLY SMART!

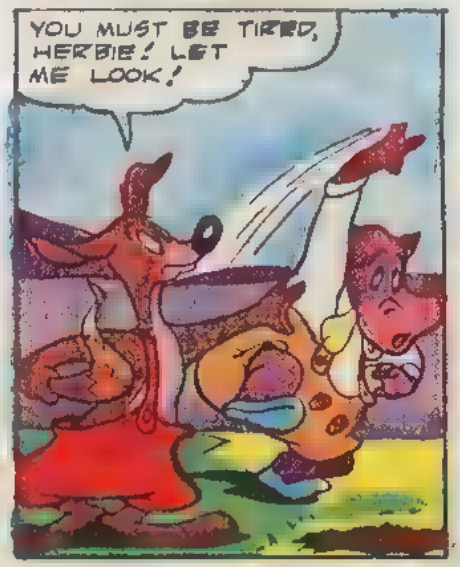

LATER.
I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU HERE, MRS. KANGROO! I THOUGHT YOU'D BE AT THE BARGAIN SALE!
BARGAIN SALE?


OVER AT CAMEL'S DEPARTMENT STORE! EVERYTHING YOU CAN CARRY AWAY... AT HALF PRICE!
GOODNESS! I'LL HURRY THERE RIGHT AWAY!


SO FAR, SO GOOD! I'LL SEE HOW HERBIE IS MAKING OUT WITH THE REST OF THE PLAN!

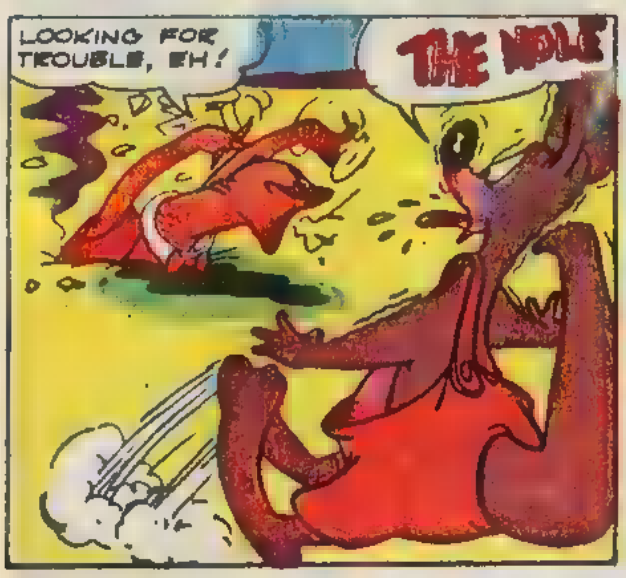

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?
I SURE AM, KORKY!

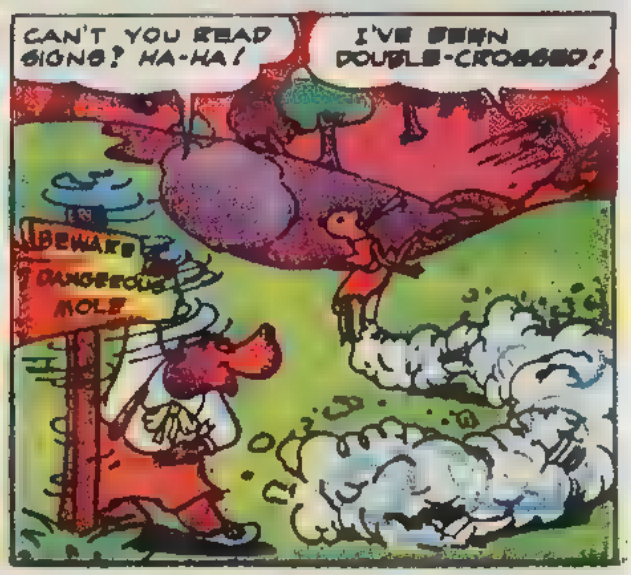
CAN'T YOU READ SIGNS?
WELL KNOCK ME FOR A DAISY!
BURIED TREASURE


YOU MUST BE TIRED, HERBIE! LET ME LOOK!

HAW-HAW! THE POOR SUCKER DOESN'T KNOW THAT FINDERS ARE KEEPERS! I'LL FIND THE TREASURE AND KEEP IT!

IN THE GROUND MOLE'S LAIR-
WHO'S MAKING THAT SMOKE?

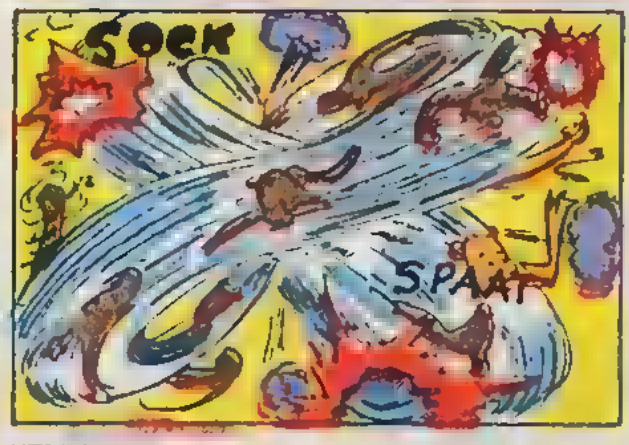

LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, EH!
THE MOLE

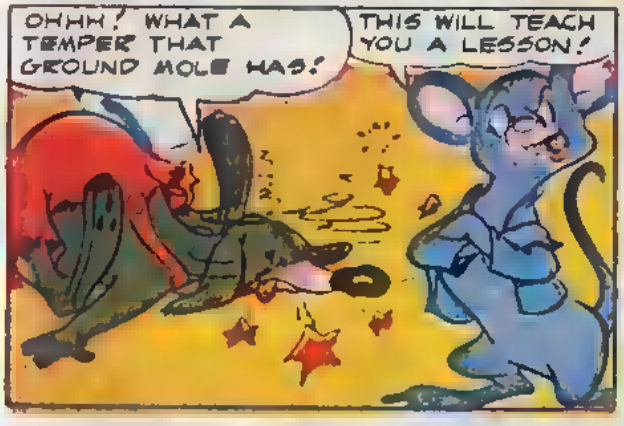

CAN'T YOU READ SIGNS? HA-HA!
I'VE BEEN DOUBLE-CROSSED!
BEWARE DANGEROUS MOLE

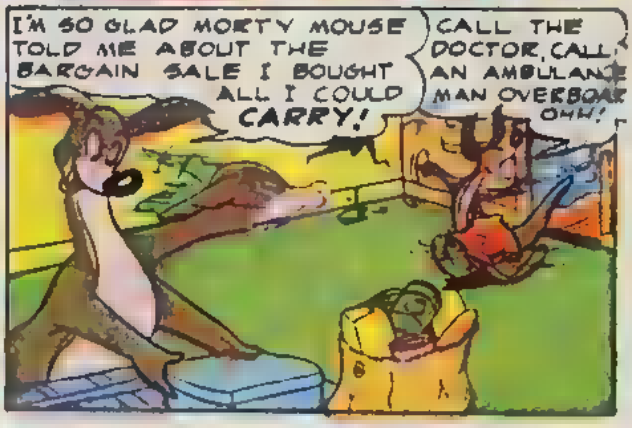
I'M SAFE NOW, THANKS MOM!

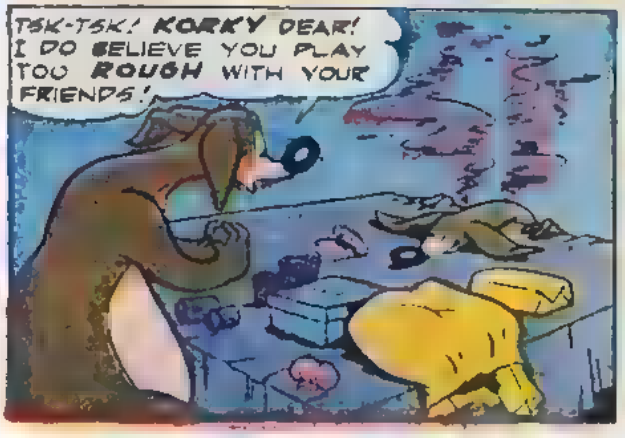
YIN! NO ROOM!
KLONK

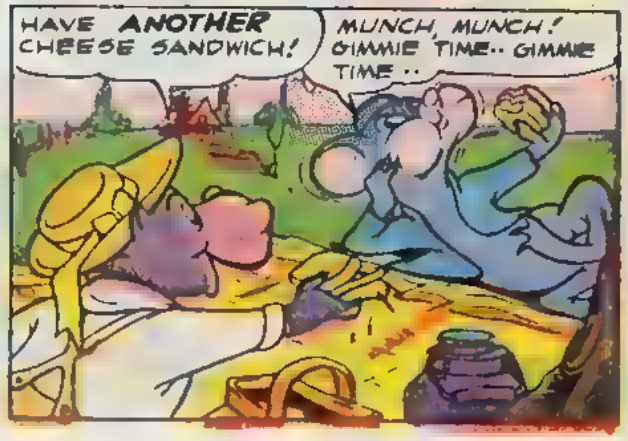
GIVE IT TO HIM!
L-LISTEN TO REASON!


SOCK
SPAAT


OHHH! WHAT A TEMPER THAT GROUND MOLE HAS!
THIS WILL TEACH YOU A LESSON!

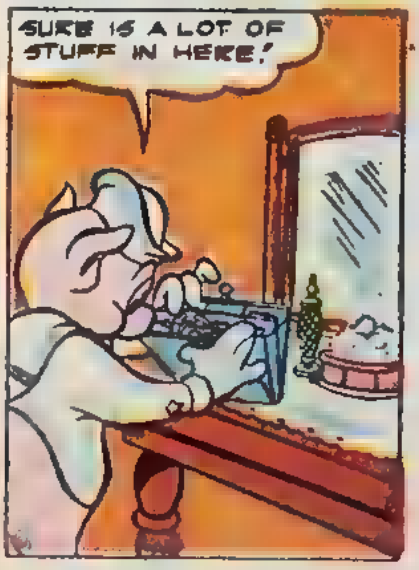

I'M SO GLAD MORTY MOUSE TOLD ME ABOUT THE BARGAIN SALE I BOUGHT ALL I COULD CARRY!
CALL THE DOCTOR, CALL AN AMBULANCE MAN OVERBOARD OHH!


TSK-TSK! KORKY DEAR! I DO BELIEVE YOU PLAY TOO ROUGH WITH YOUR FRIENDS!


HAVE ANOTHER CHEESE SANDWICH!
MUNCH, MUNCH! GIMMIE TIME.. GIMMIE TIME..

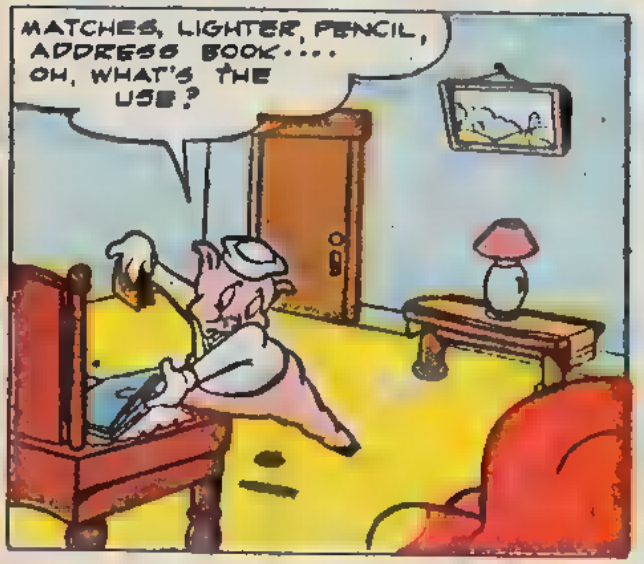
PETEY PIG
CAN I GO TO THE MOVIES, MA?

YES, DEAR! YOU'LL FIND THE MONEY IN MY PURSE!


SURE IS A LOT OF STUFF IN HERE!

COMB, COMPACT, MIRROR, SCISSORS, KEY RING --

-- LETTERS, LIPSTICK, BOBBY PINS, CURLERS, HAIRNET--

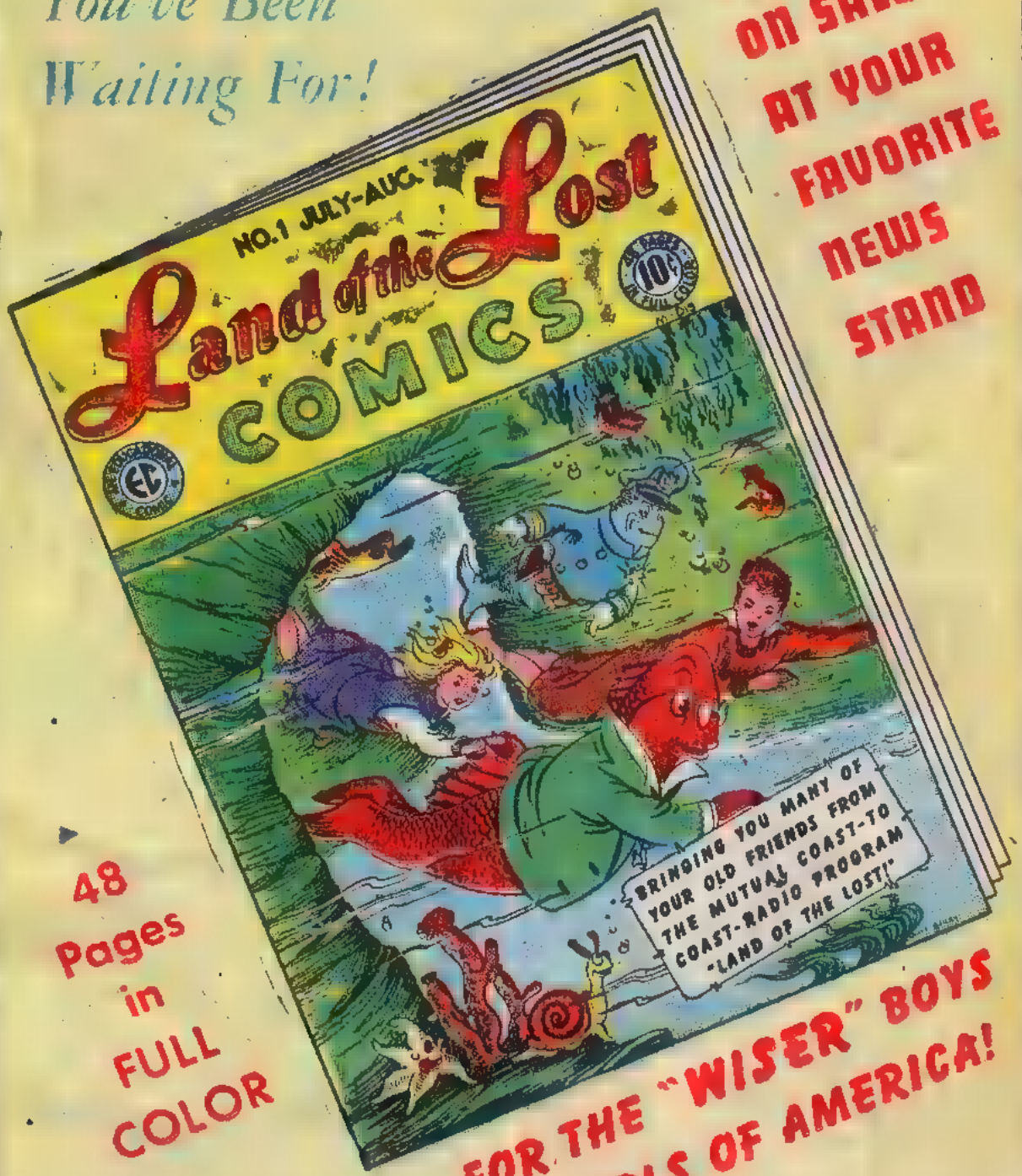

MATCHES, LIGHTER, PENCIL, ADDRESS BOOK.... OH, WHAT'S THE USE?

I DECIDED TO STAY HOME AND READ A GOOD BOOK!

HERE IT IS, BOYS AND GIRLS!

The New Comic Book You've Been Waiting For!

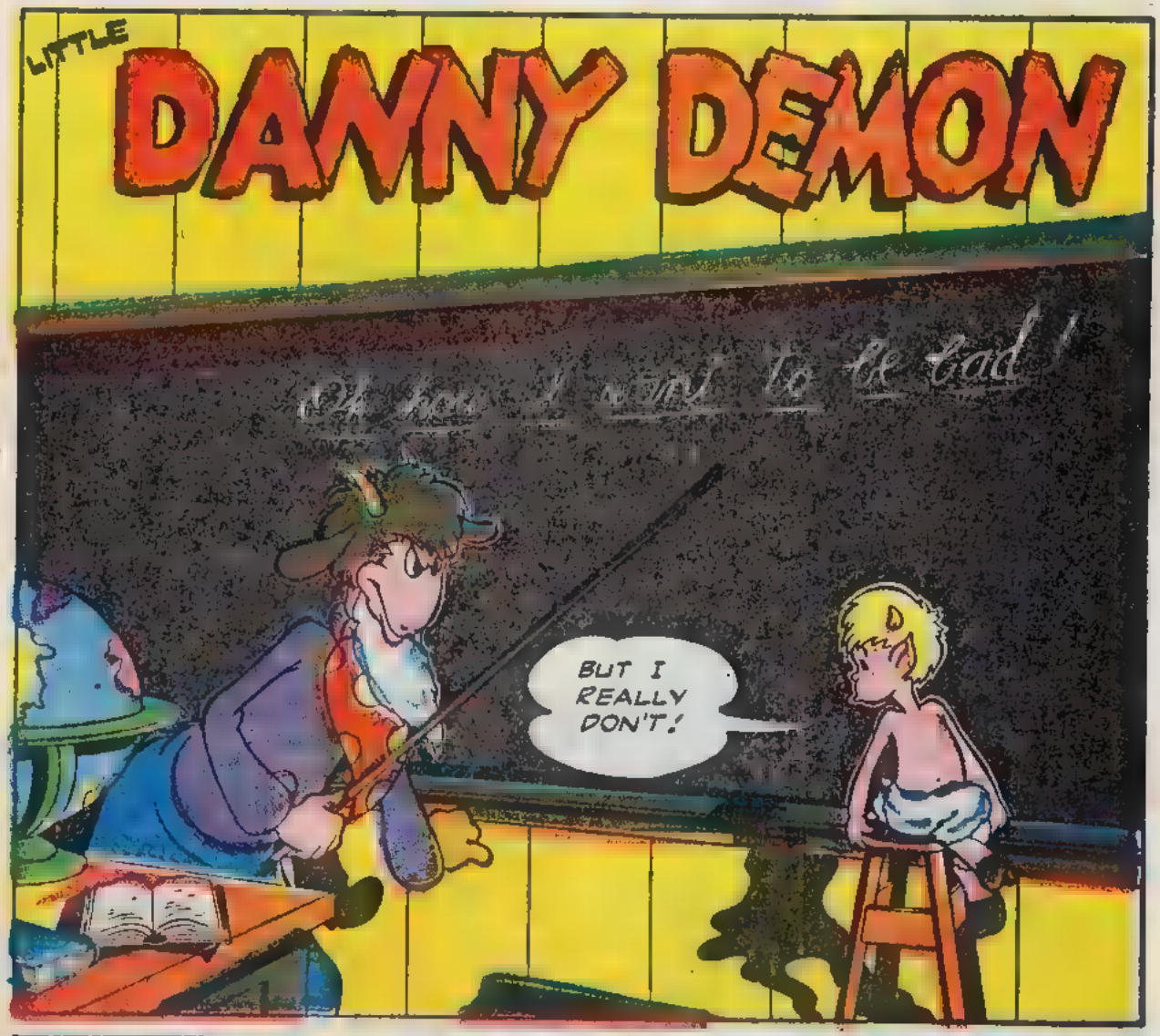
SOON ON SALE AT YOUR FAVORITE NEWS STAND

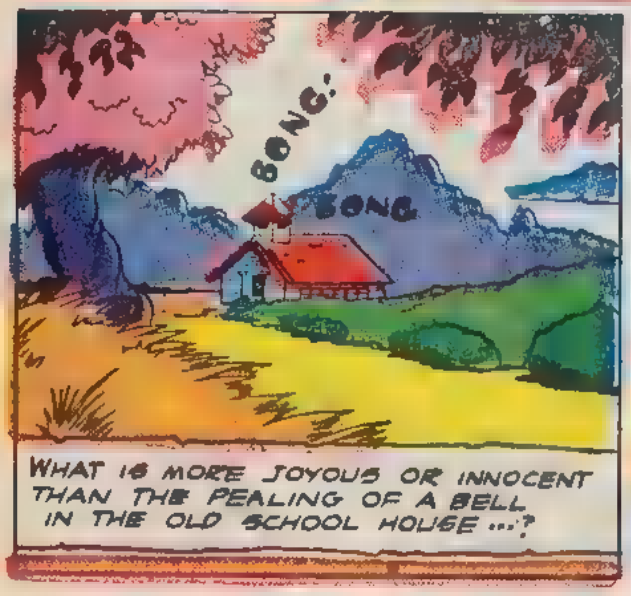


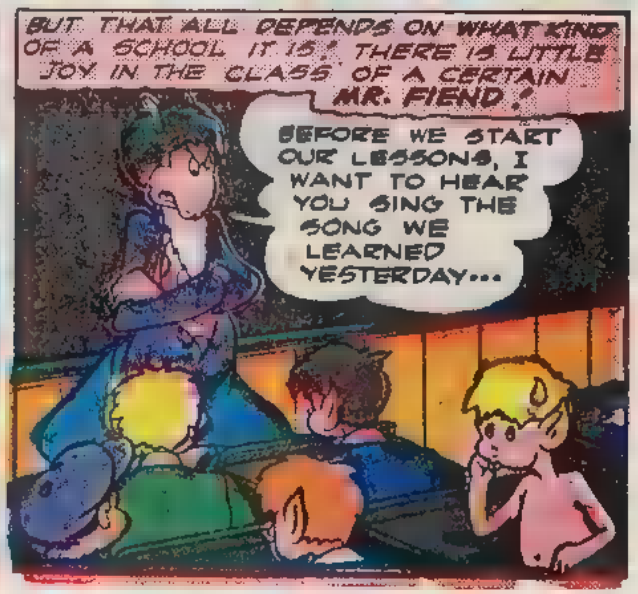
48 Pages in FULL COLOR

FOR THE "WISER" BOYS & GIRLS OF AMERICA!

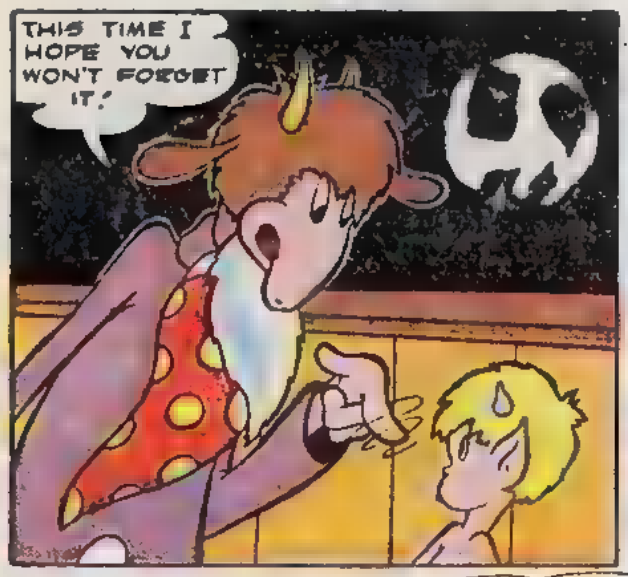
LITTLE DANNY DEMON

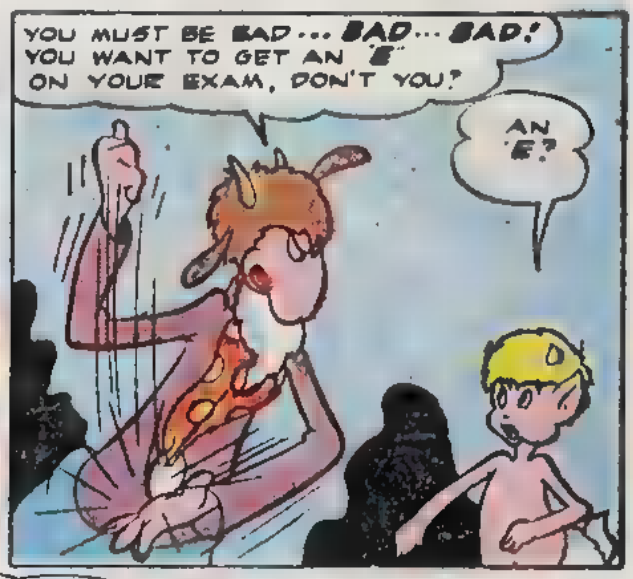






EVERY DAY IN EVERY WAY
WE ARE GETTING WICKEDER AND WICKEDER
SO!
WHY AREN'T YOU SINGING WITH THE OTHERS, DANNY DEMON?
I--ER--ULP. WAS READING MY BOOK, MISTER FIEND!
IS IT A COPY OF WICKED TALES? OR A SPECIAL TEXTBOOK ON HOBGOBLINS AND WITCHES? LET ME SEE!
AHA!
WORLD GEOGRAPHY
READING A GEOGRAPHY LESSON! YOU'LL STAY AFTER SCHOOL FOR THIS!
Y-YESSIR!
CAN I GO HOME NOW, MISTER FIEND?
HAVE YOU FINISHED WRITING WHAT I TOLD YOU?

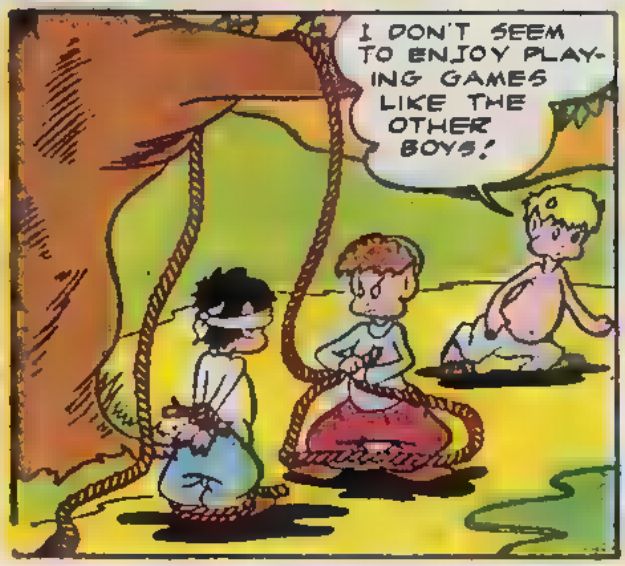

THIS TIME I HOPE YOU WON'T FORGET IT!

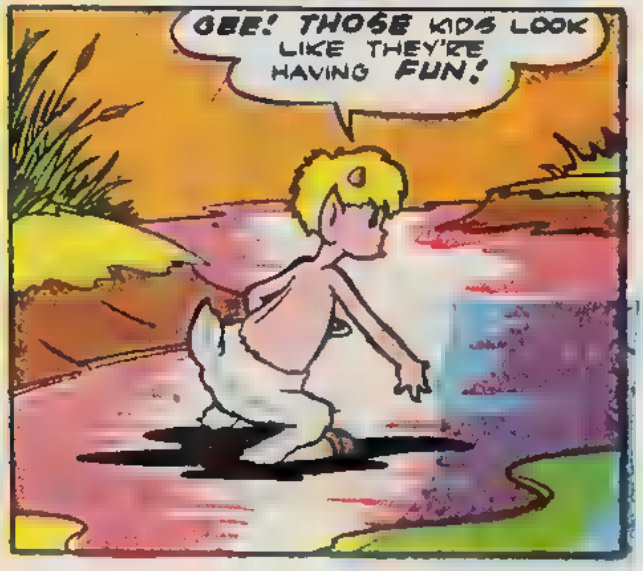

YOU MUST BE BAD... BAD... BAD! YOU WANT TO GET AN "E" ON YOUR EXAM, DON'T YOU?
AN "E"?

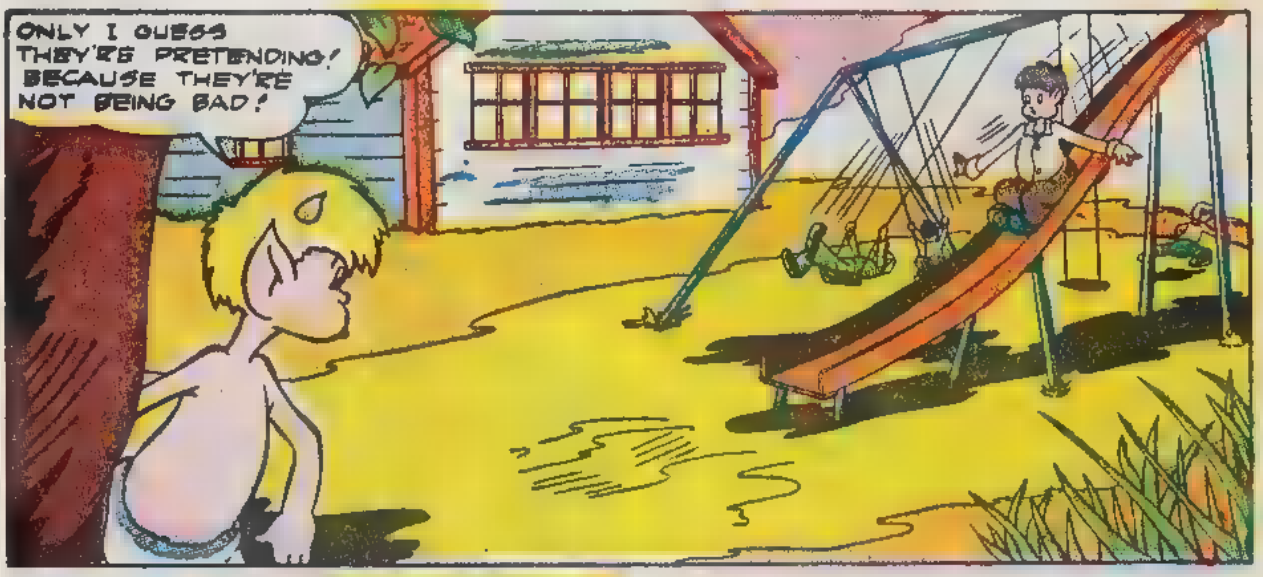
"E" IS FOR EVIL, OF COURSE! NOW, RUN ALONG AND STUDY YOUR LESSONS FOR TOMORROW!

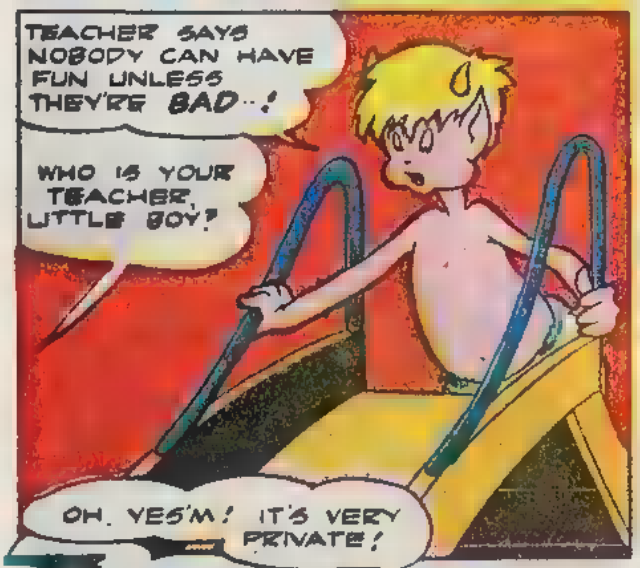
I GUESS THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME! I DON'T WANT TO BE BAD!

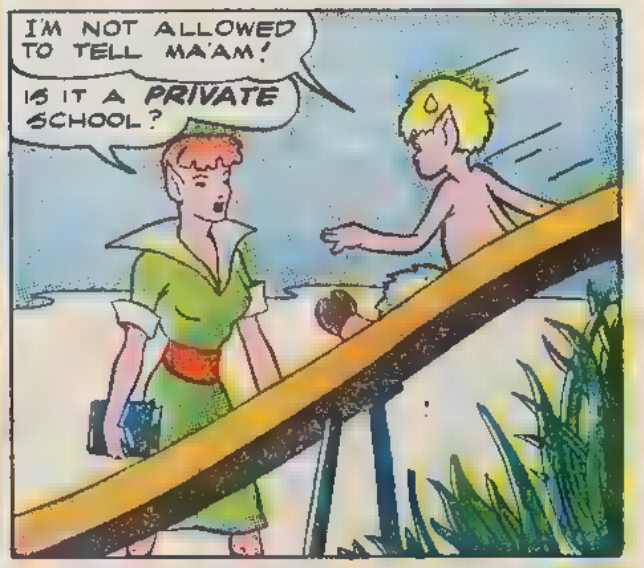
C'MON! WE'LL LET'CHA PLAY SHOOTIN' AT A NO GOOD COPPER!
NO THANK YOU!


I DON'T SEEM TO ENJOY PLAYING GAMES LIKE THE OTHER BOYS!

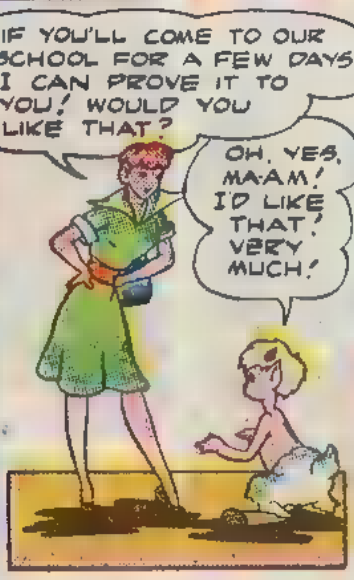

GEE! THOSE KIDS LOOK LIKE THEY'RE HAVING FUN!


ONLY I GUESS THEY'RE PRETENDING! BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT BEING BAD!

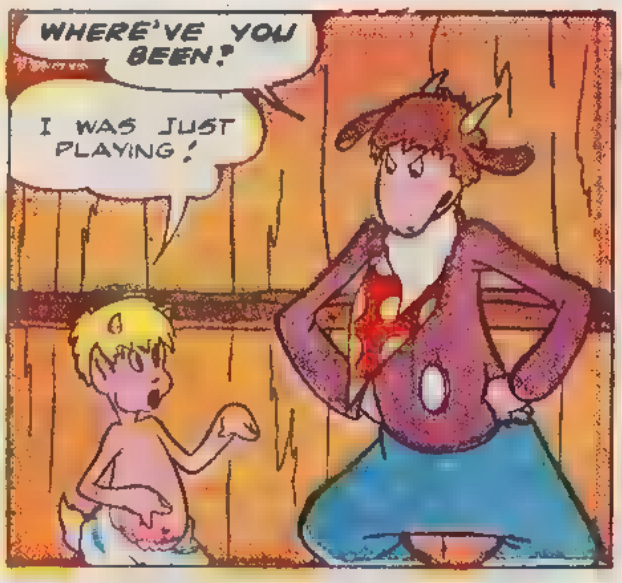

TEACHER SAYS NOBODY CAN HAVE FUN UNLESS THEY'RE BAD..!
WHO IS YOUR TEACHER, LITTLE BOY?
OH, YES'M! IT'S VERY PRIVATE!


I'M NOT ALLOWED TO TELL MA'AM!
IS IT A PRIVATE SCHOOL?

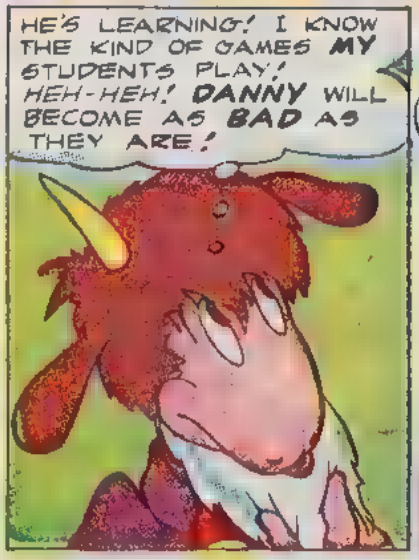
TEACHER OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED! IT'S NOT FUN TO BE BAD!


IF YOU'LL COME TO OUR SCHOOL FOR A FEW DAYS I CAN PROVE IT TO YOU! WOULD YOU LIKE THAT?
OH, YES, MA'AM! I'D LIKE THAT VERY MUCH!

BUT I KNOW SOMEONE WHO ISN'T GOING TO (GULP) LIKE IT AT ALL!


WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?
I WAS JUST PLAYING!

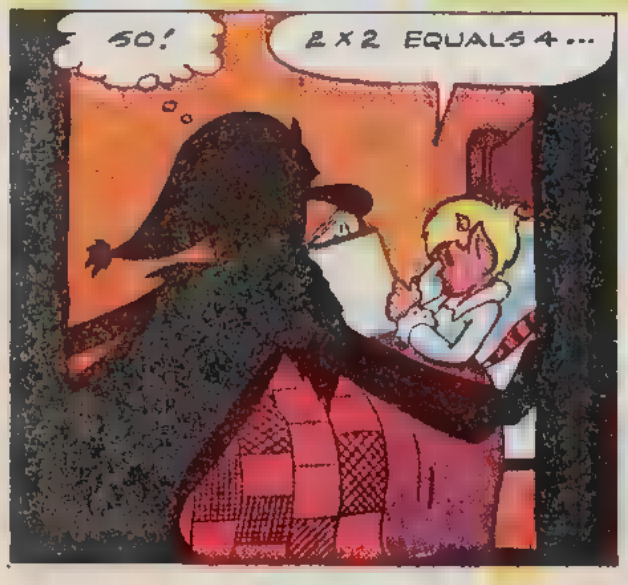
WHAT WERE YOU PLAYING? WHO WAS WITH YOU?
OH .. ER... JUST SOME OF THE OTHER KIDS!

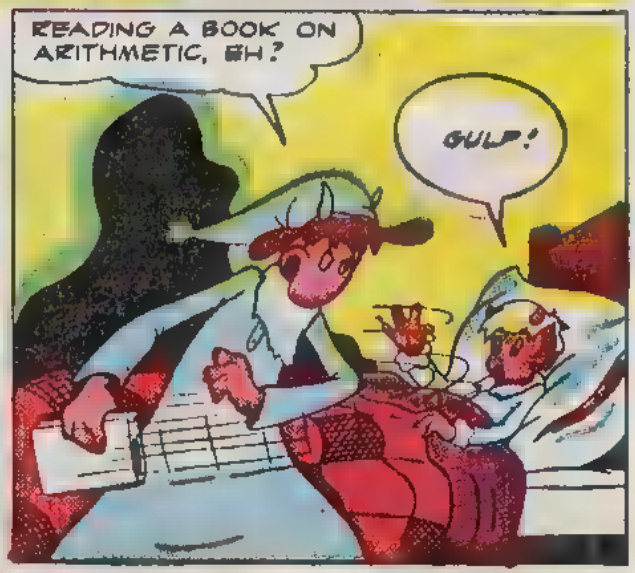

HE'S LEARNING! I KNOW THE KIND OF GAMES MY STUDENTS PLAY! HEH-HEH! DANNY WILL BECOME AS BAD AS THEY ARE!

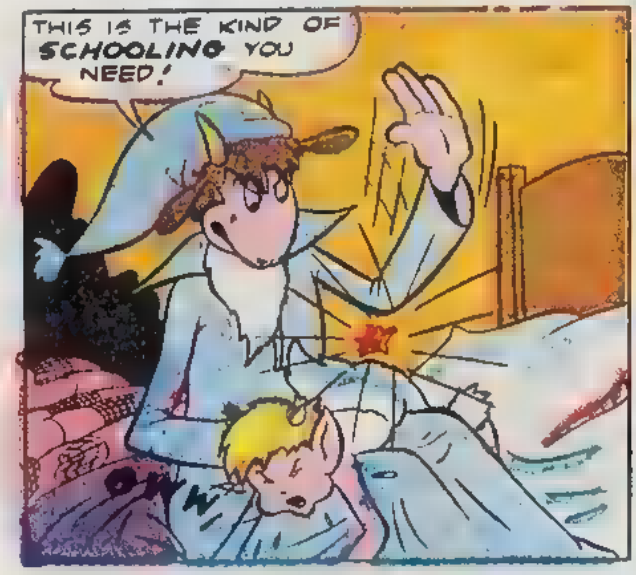
KEEP UP THE BAD WORK, DANNY! YOU'LL GET AN "E" FOR EVIL YET!
GOOD NIGHT!

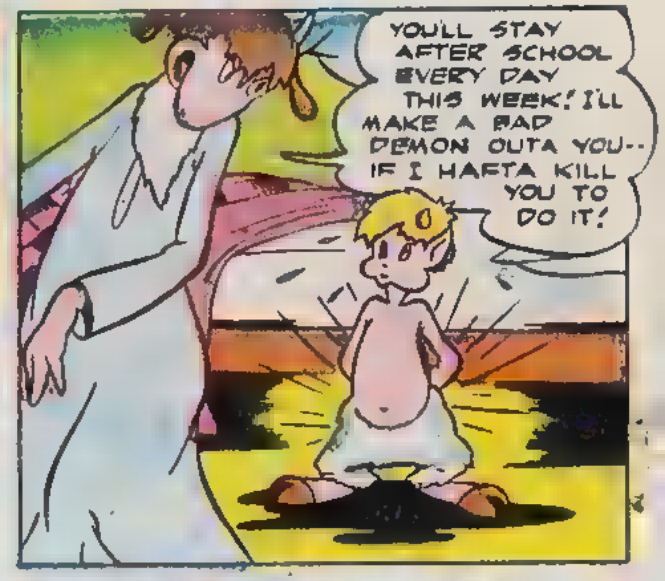
THAT NIGHT --

THE LIGHT'S STILL ON! WHAT'S HE DOING THERE?

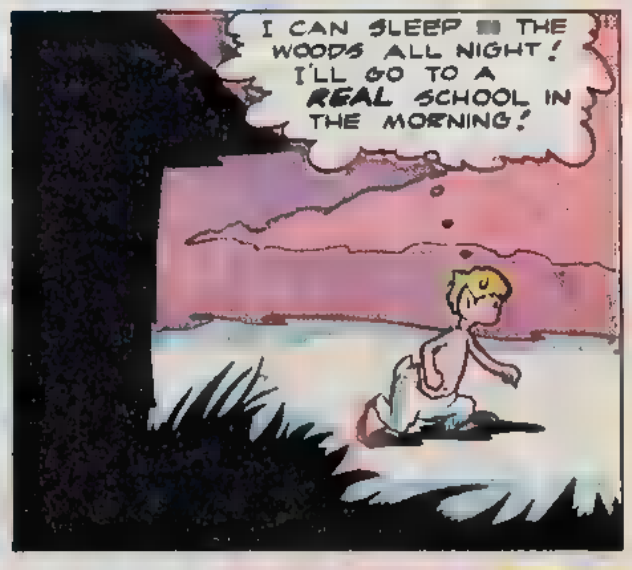

SO!
2 X 2 EQUALS 4...

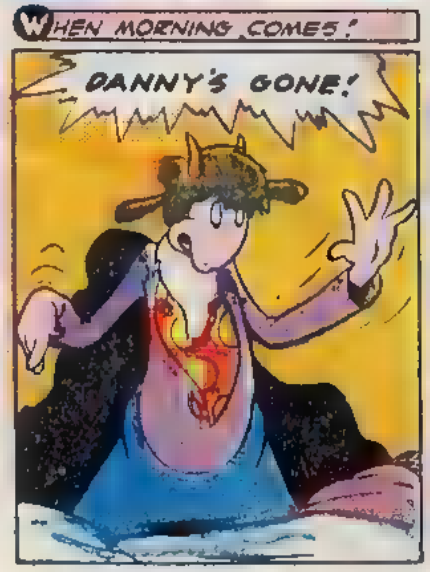

READING A BOOK ON ARITHMETIC, EH?
GULP!

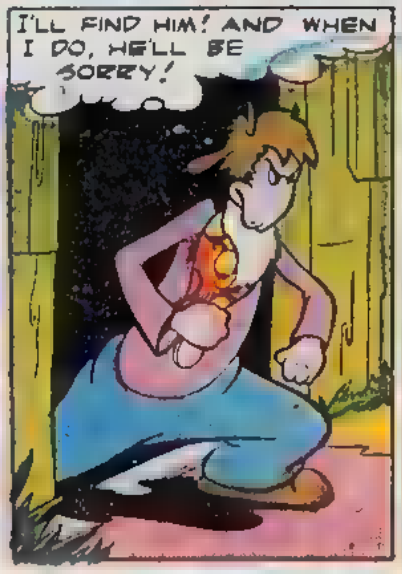

THIS IS THE KIND OF SCHOOLING YOU NEED!
OWW

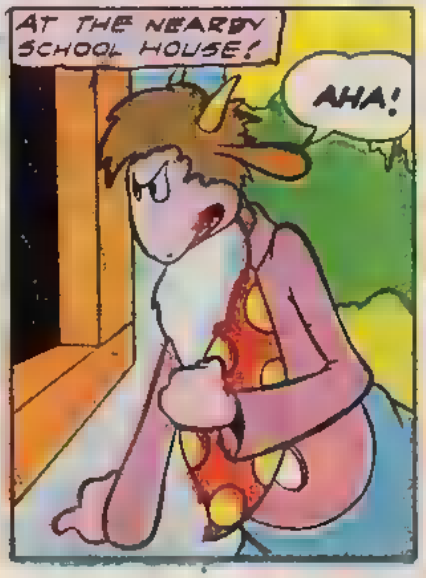

YOU'LL STAY AFTER SCHOOL EVERY DAY THIS WEEK! I'LL MAKE A BAD DEMON OUTA YOU-- IF I HAFTA KILL YOU TO DO IT!

HE CAN'T TREAT ME LIKE THAT! I'LL RUN AWAY!


I CAN SLEEP IN THE WOODS ALL NIGHT! I'LL GO TO A REAL SCHOOL IN THE MORNING!


WHEN MORNING COMES!
DANNY'S GONE!

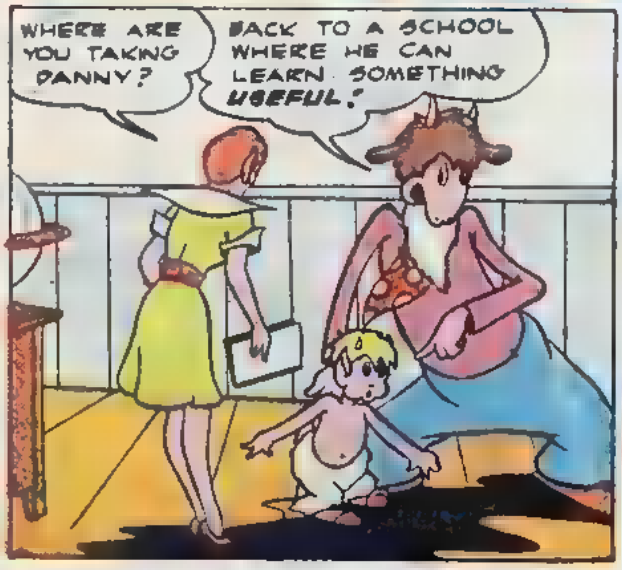

I'LL FIND HIM! AND WHEN I DO, HE'LL BE SORRY!

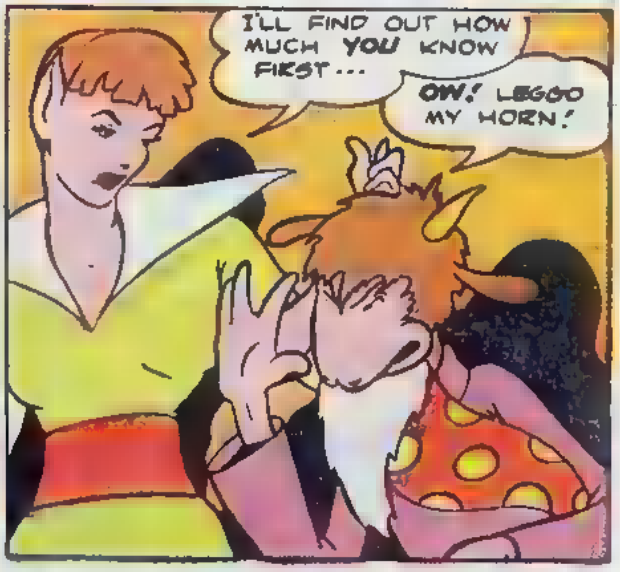

AT THE NEARBY SCHOOL HOUSE!
AHA!

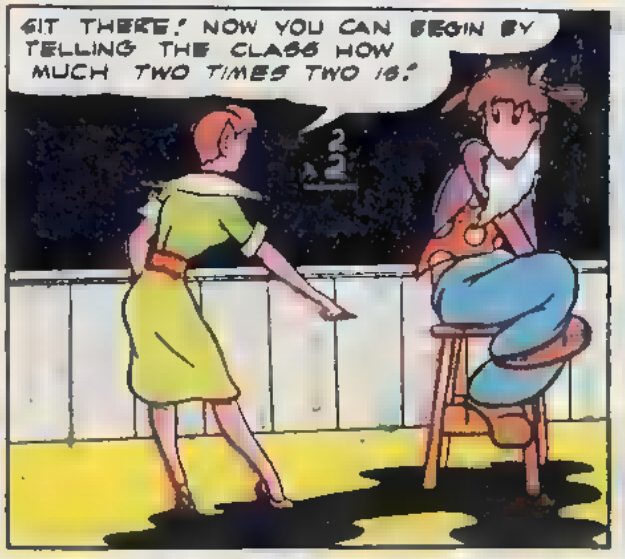
HE QUIT MY SCHOOL TO COME HERE!

M-MISTER FIEND!

I'LL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING YOU OUGHT TO KNOW!
JUST A MINUTE!

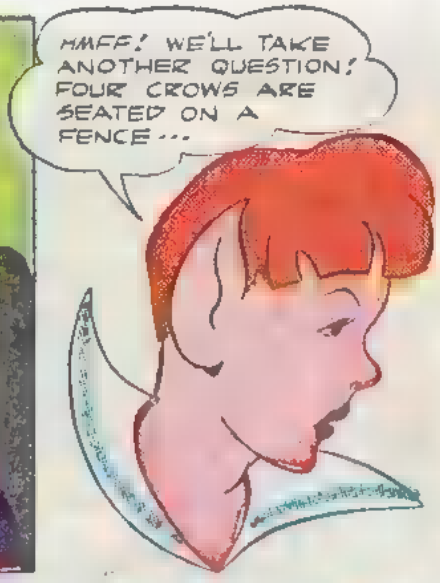

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING DANNY?
BACK TO A SCHOOL WHERE HE CAN LEARN SOMETHING USEFUL!


I'LL FIND OUT HOW MUCH YOU KNOW FIRST...
OW! LEGGO MY HORN!

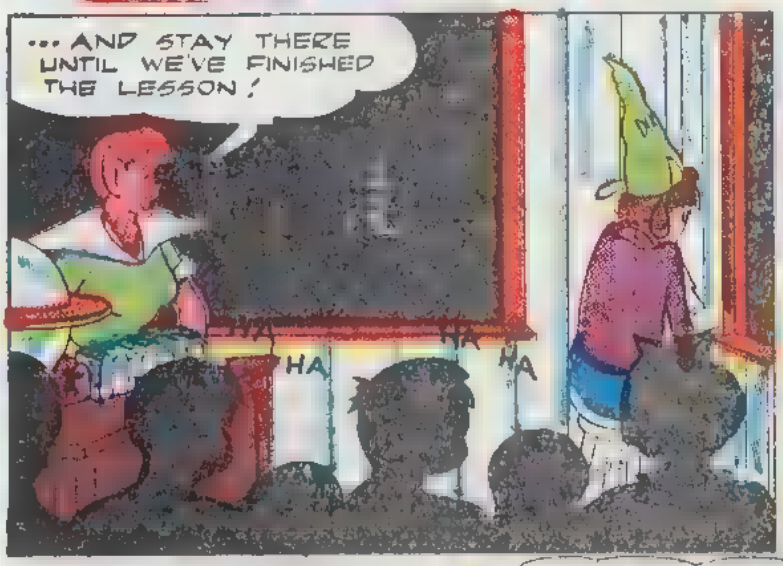

SIT THERE! NOW YOU CAN BEGIN BY TELLING THE CLASS HOW MUCH TWO TIMES TWO IS!

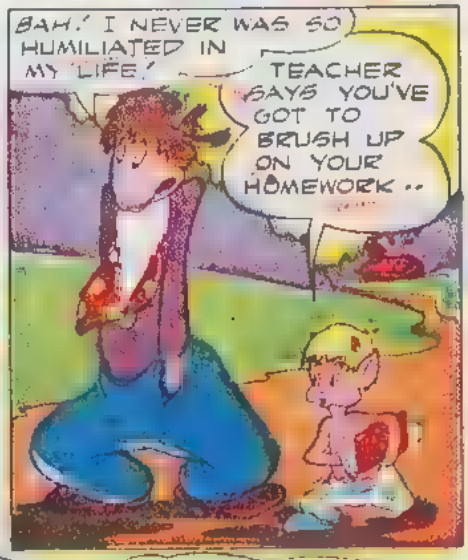
WHY.. ER... THAT'S EASY! IT'S.. UH... LEMME SEE NOW...!

... IT'S TWENTY TWO!

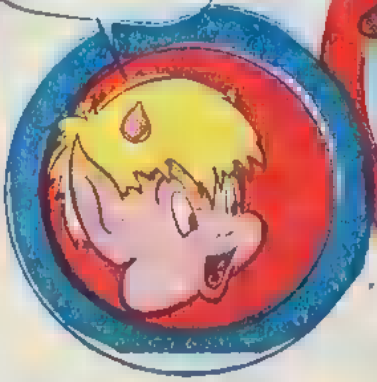

HMFF! WE'LL TAKE ANOTHER QUESTION! FOUR CROWS ARE SEATED ON A FENCE ...

IF YOU SHOOT ONE, WHAT IS LEFT?
CROW PIE!


... AND STAY THERE UNTIL WE'VE FINISHED THE LESSON!
HA
HA
HA

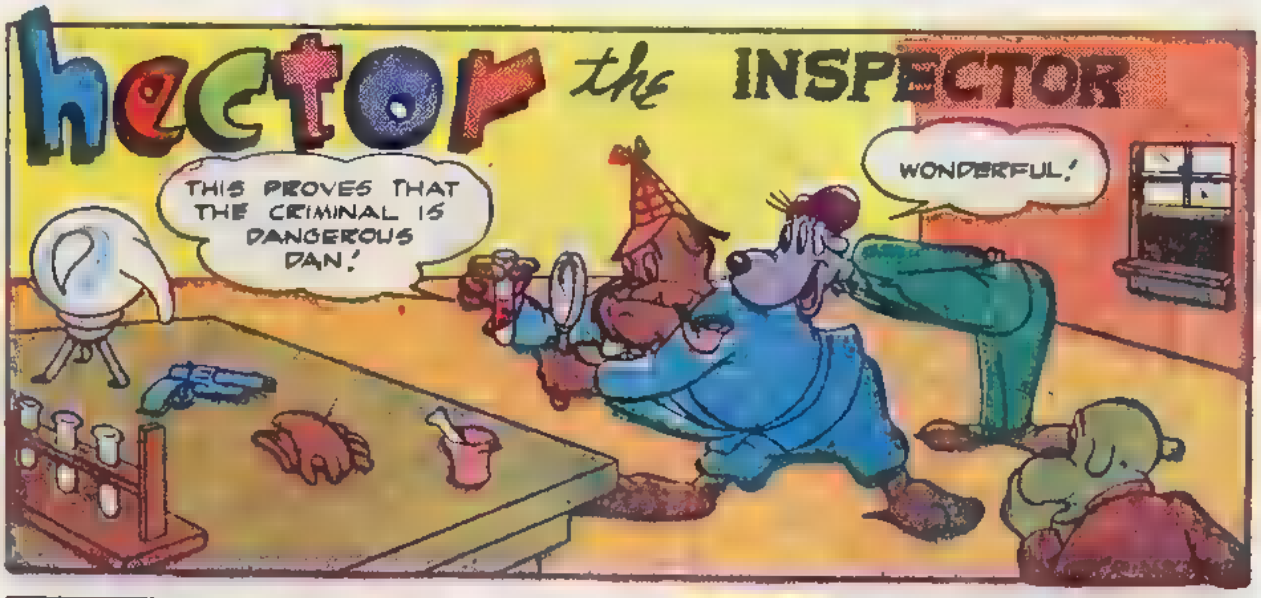

BAH! I NEVER WAS SO HUMILIATED IN MY LIFE!
TEACHER SAYS YOU'VE GOT TO BRUSH UP ON YOUR HOMEWORK ..

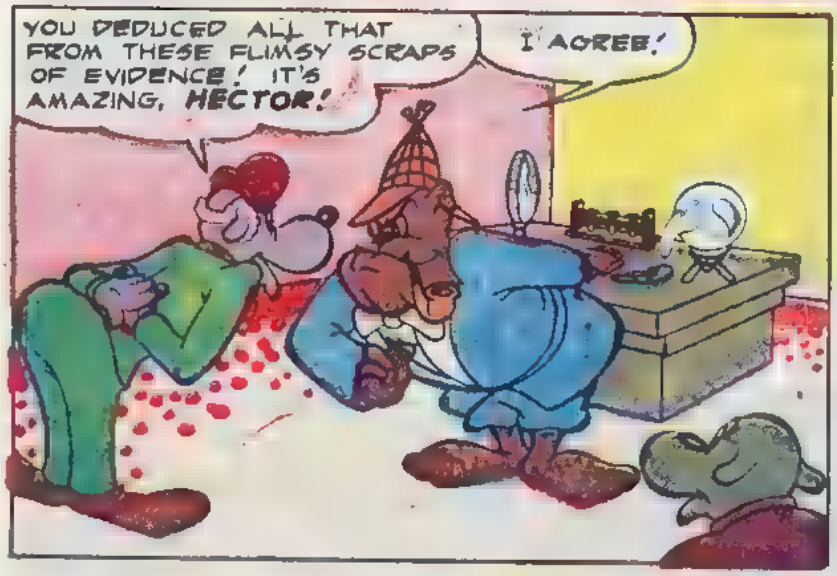
I GOT AN "A" FOR TODAY'S LESSON... SO I CAN HELP YOU!

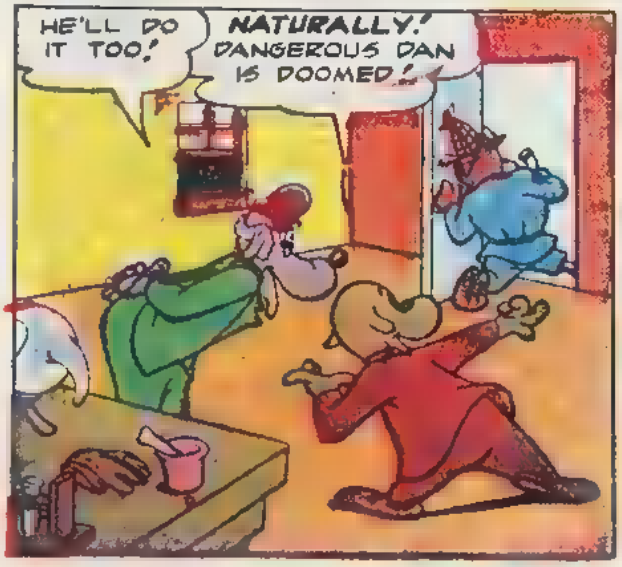

I WON'T MIND STUDYING NIGHTS! WE CAN READ GEOGRAPHY AND ARITHMETIC BOOKS TOGETHER... WE'LL HAVE LOTS OF FUN!

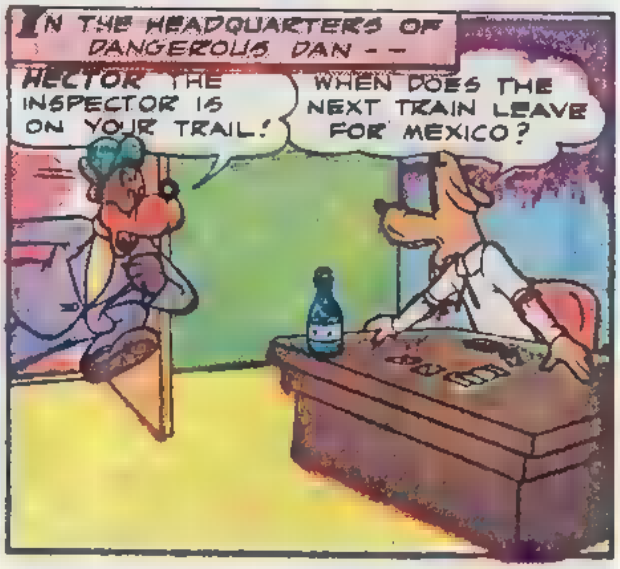
SOUNDS HORRIBLE! SIGH! YOU'LL NEVER GET AN "E" FOR EVIL AT THIS RATE!

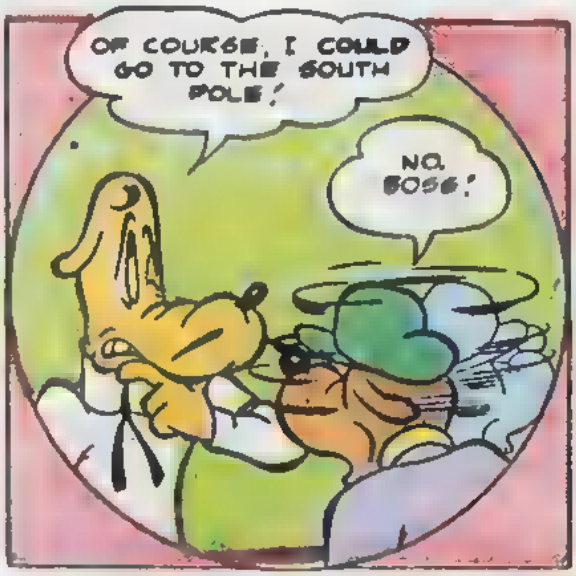
hector the INSPECTOR



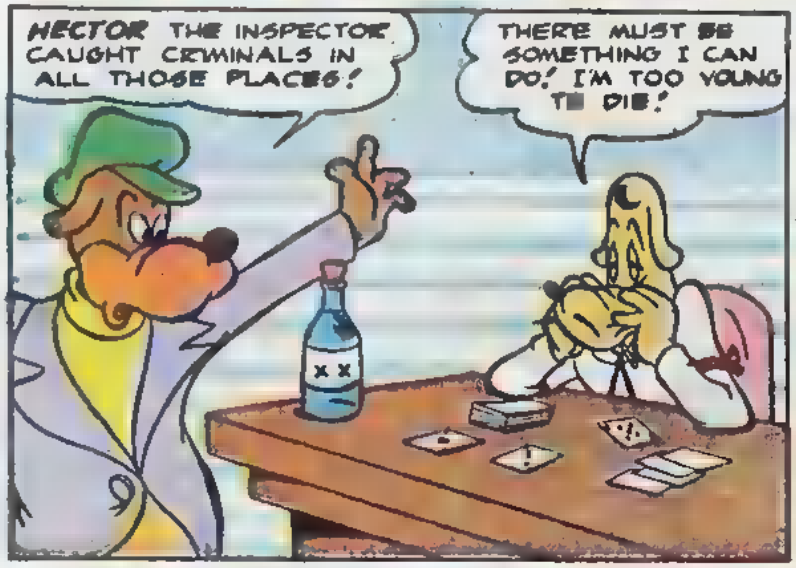




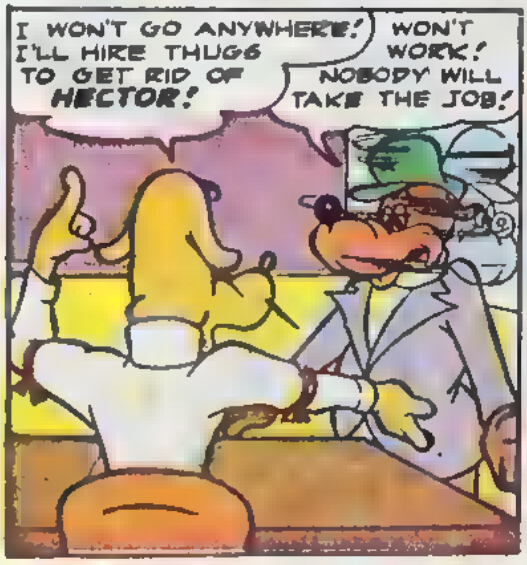


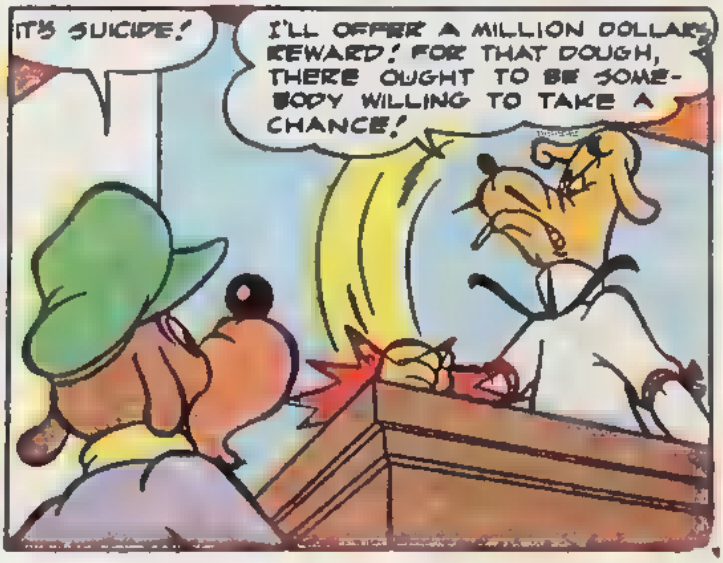

OF COURSE, I COULD GO TO THE SOUTH POLE!
NO, BOSS!

EUROPE? AFGHANISTAN? MAYBE I COULD HIDE OUT IN THE STRATOSPHERE!
NO, BOSS!

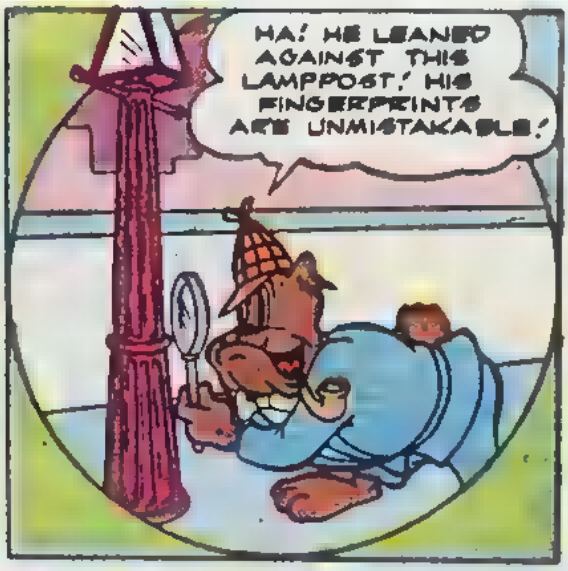

HECTOR THE INSPECTOR CAUGHT CRIMINALS IN ALL THOSE PLACES!
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN DO! I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE!
X X

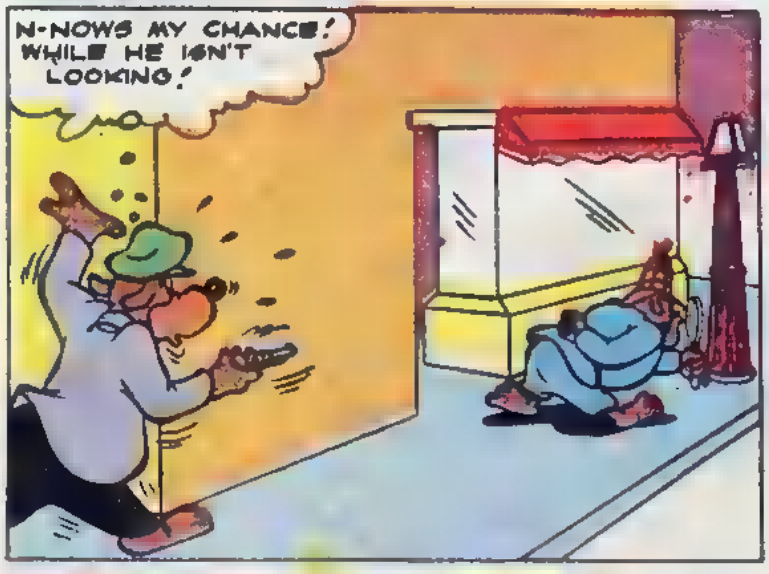
I'VE GOT IT!


I WON'T GO ANYWHERE! I'LL HIRE THUGS TO GET RID OF HECTOR!
WON'T WORK! NOBODY WILL TAKE THE JOB!

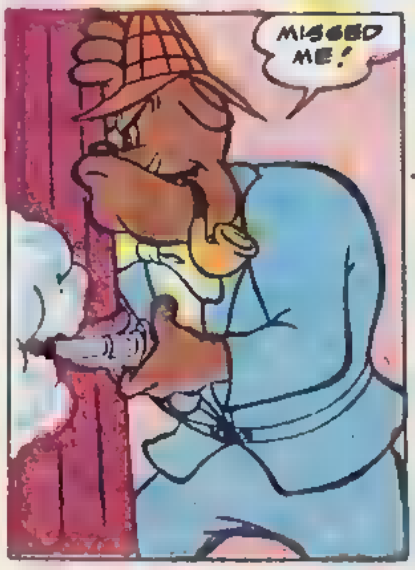

IT'S SUICIDE!
I'LL OFFER A MILLION DOLLAR REWARD! FOR THAT DOUGH, THERE OUGHT TO BE SOMEBODY WILLING TO TAKE A CHANCE!

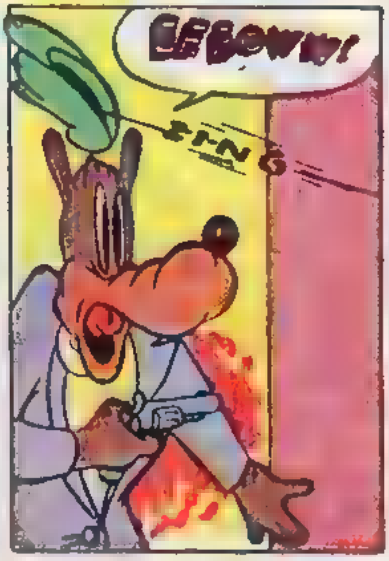
THESE FAINTLY VISIBLE HEELMARKS PROVE DANGEROUS DAN CAME THIS WAY...


HA! HE LEANED AGAINST THIS LAMPPOST! HIS FINGERPRINTS ARE UNMISTAKABLE!


N-NOWS MY CHANCE! WHILE HE ISN'T LOOKING!

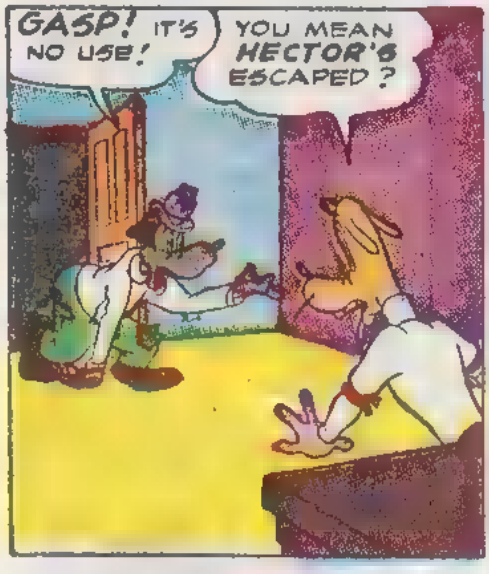
IT'S AN'EASY WAY TO EARN A MILLION DOLLARS!
BLAM

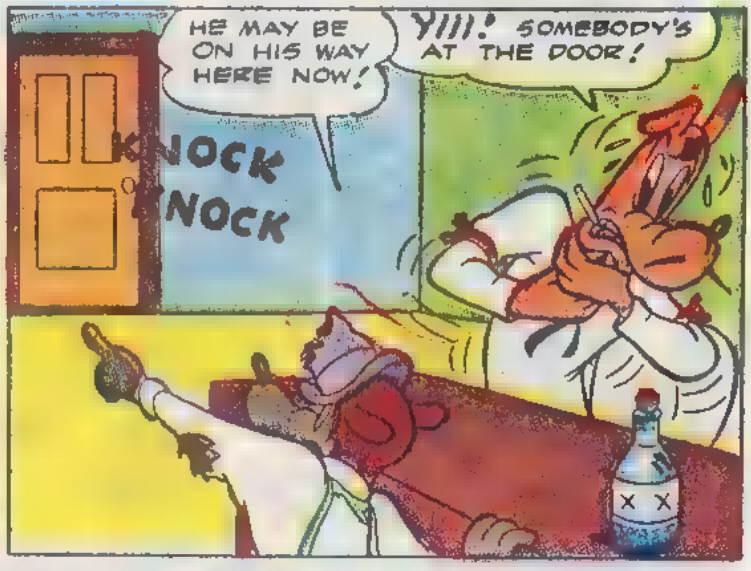

MISSED ME!

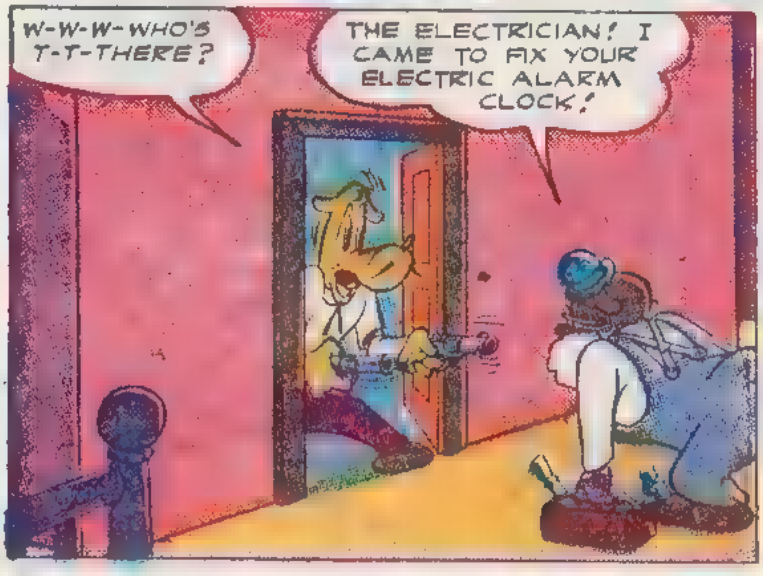

EEBOW!
ZING

HELP! HE SHOT OFF MY SUSPENDERS!

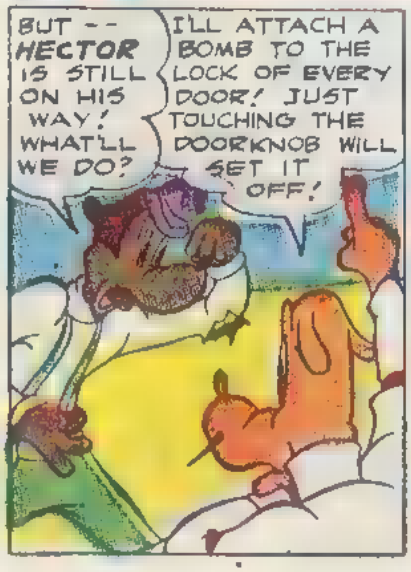
OH-H-H! I TRIPPED!
THUD!
LOUIE THE LUG! I DIDN'T THINK YOU HAD THE NERVE TO SHOOT AT ME!
I MUST'VE BEEN CRAZY! IT WAS THE LURE OF EASY MONEY THAT DID IT!
SEE?
$1,000,000 REWARD FOR HECTOR & INSPECTOR DEAD OR ALIVE
Dangerous Dan!
TAKING YOU TO JAIL WILL CAUSE A DELAY OF TEN MINUTES IN MY PLANS!
DANGEROUS DAN MUST BE GETTING NERVOUS!
BOOOM!
BUT I'LL STILL BRING HIM TO JUSTICE IN TWENTY FOUR HOURS! NO MORE AND NO LESS!

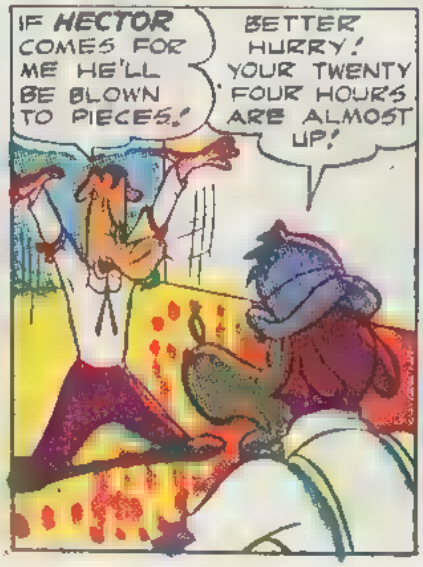

GASP! IT'S NO USE!
YOU MEAN HECTOR'S ESCAPED?


HE MAY BE ON HIS WAY HERE NOW!
YIII! SOMEBODY'S AT THE DOOR!
KNOCK KNOCK


W-W-W-WHO'S T-T-THERE?
THE ELECTRICIAN! I CAME TO FIX YOUR ELECTRIC ALARM CLOCK!

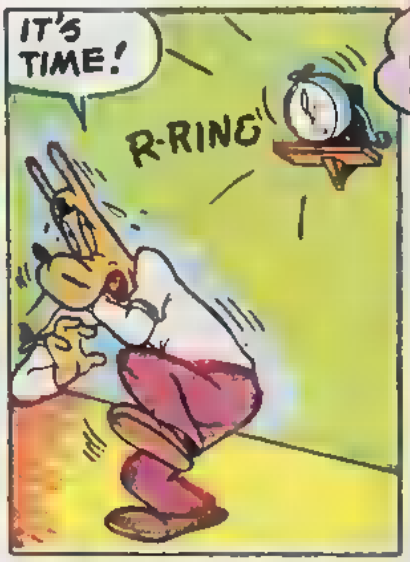
WHEW! HE HAD ME FRIGHTENED FOR A MINUTE!

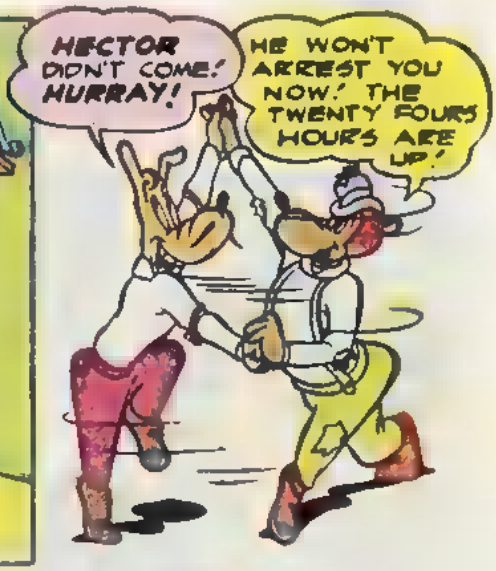

BUT -- HECTOR IS STILL ON HIS WAY! WHAT'LL WE DO?
I'LL ATTACH A BOMB TO THE LOCK OF EVERY DOOR! JUST TOUCHING THE DOORKNOB WILL SET IT OFF!

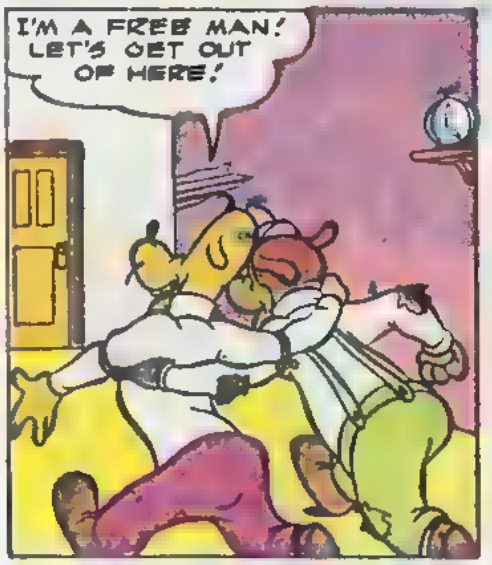

IF HECTOR COMES FOR ME HE'LL BE BLOWN TO PIECES!
BETTER HURRY! YOUR TWENTY FOUR HOURS ARE ALMOST UP!

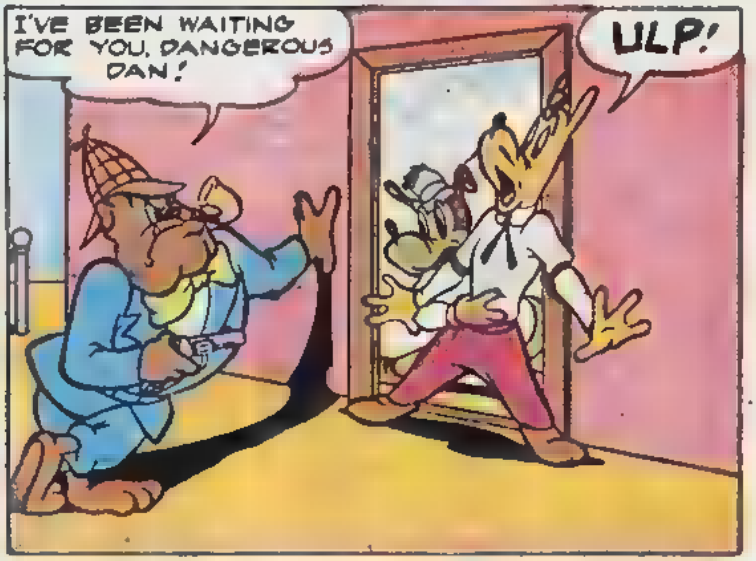
THE ALARM CLOCK RUNS ALL RIGHT NOW!
OKAY! BEAT IT!

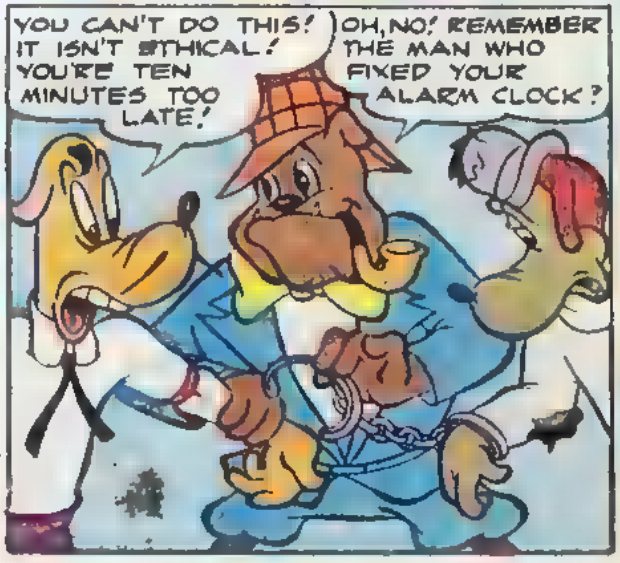
HALF AN HOUR LATER—
THREE MINUTES TO GO! WHY DOESN'T HE COME?
HE W-WILL! HECTOR'S NEVER BEEN LATE IN HIS WHOLE CAREER!
TICK
TICK
TICK

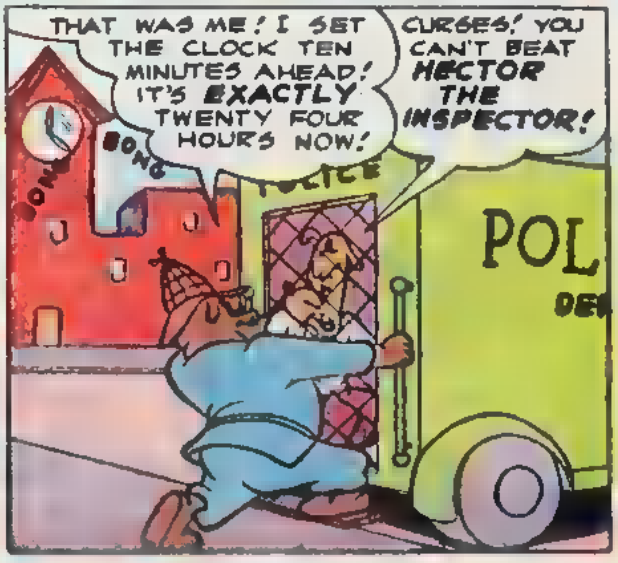

IT'S TIME!
R-RING


HECTOR DIDN'T COME! HURRAY!
HE WON'T ARREST YOU NOW! THE TWENTY FOUR HOURS ARE UP!


I'M A FREE MAN! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!


I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, DANGEROUS DAN!
ULP!


YOU CAN'T DO THIS! IT ISN'T ETHICAL! YOU'RE TEN MINUTES TOO LATE!
OH, NO! REMEMBER THE MAN WHO FIXED YOUR ALARM CLOCK?


THAT WAS ME! I SET THE CLOCK TEN MINUTES AHEAD! IT'S EXACTLY TWENTY FOUR HOURS NOW!
CURSES! YOU CAN'T BEAT HECTOR THE INSPECTOR!
BONG
BONG
POL

KORKY KANGAROO

IT was a beautiful summer's day. Overhead the sun was shining and from the nearby woods came the happy chirping of the birds. But all this was lost on Korky Kangaroo because Korky was sunk in the depths of despair. Here it was only two days before the annual school excursion and he still hadn't any money saved to buy a ticket.

"Of course, I could ask Ma for an advance on my next allowance," he mused, "except I've borrowed ahead so much already it'll take me months to catch up. Ma said she'd whale the daylights outta me if I asked for any more money."

As Korky shook his head disgustedly, who should appear just then but Herbie Hippo.

"What's the matter, pal?" inquired Herbie. "You look low enough to give even a worm an argument."

Korky's eyes lit up at sight of his friend. If ever a guy was a sucker for a sob story it was Herbie Hippo.

Putting his head on Herbie's shoulder, Korky poured out his tale of woe. His voice shook, tears trickled from his eyes and altogether it was a performance that would've moved even a stone to pity . . . only Herbie wasn't a stone and for once Korky's words failed to move him.

"I know how it is," he said when Korky had finished. "Y'see, I'm broke myself."

"There *is* a way you can raise the dough, though," Herbie continued. "You might try going to work."

"WORK?" gasped Korky, as if someone had poked him in the nose. "You mean like running errands and stuff? Brrrr, what a horrible thought."

"No, nothing like that," Herbie interrupted. "Listen to what I've got to say."

As Herbie's voice rumbled on, Korky's eyes got bigger and bigger. If what Herbie was saying was true, here was the opportunity of a lifetime to really make some dough—and actually without doing much work for it, too.

It seemed that a few miles outside town was a cave, supposed to be haunted by the ghost of an old muskrat who'd been killed by a landslide years before while prospecting for gold. None had actually ever seen the ghost and, personally, Herbie thought it was all a lot of foolishness. As long as there were enough animals silly enough to believe such things, though, why not spread the word that the ghost *had really appeared*. Then, when everyone was scared out of his wits by the news he, Korky, could announce that *he'd* get rid of the ghost . . . for a fee, of course. It was common knowledge, Herbie went on, that a ghost can be chased away by anyone having nerve enough to stand up to it, face to face, and showing it you're not frightened. Once that happens, the spell is broken and the ghost up and disappears, never to be heard from again.

"That's a swell idea," said Korky when Herbie had finished, "but if you think I'm gonna be close enough to look any ghost in the eye, you're crazy. Besides, how are you going to make sure the cave *is* haunted? Answer me that."

"Simple," answered Herbie. "With the help of a couple of bedsheets, *I'LL* be the ghost! If anyone from town is suspicious and shows up to see for themselves, they'll still be too scared to get close enough to know the difference."

It was easier than Herbie said and soon Korky was standing in front of the cave. A safe distance behind him was a group of

animals from town, most of them bankers seeing that they got their money's worth.

"Come on out, Mister Ghost—I'm not scared of you," called Korky in his bravest voice.

A minute passed by and still the "ghost" didn't appear. Korky repeated the challenge. But more minutes passed by and still nothing happened. Out of the corner of his eye Korky could see that the other animals were tossing angry glances his way.

"What's keeping him?" thought Korky. "If he doesn't show up pretty soon they'll think I gypped 'em. Why, there's no telling what they might do to me!"

Just then from the cave came a horrible moan. Then out shuffled a white-garbed figure who advanced towards Korky.

"How dare you disturb me after all these years?" moaned the ghost. "Leave here immediately or I'll see that none of you ever leave here ALIVE! I must have peace . . . peace, d'you hear?"

Korky opened his mouth to say something but somehow the words wouldn't come. There was nothing about the ghost's voice to even vaguely remind him of Herbie. Besides, that wasn't what Herbie had planned to say, anyway. In the background, the crowd seemed to sense Korky's fears and, as the white-sheeted figure continued to advance and the little kangaroo continued to retreat before it, the group of animals broke and fled screaming down the road which led back to town.

Without another word, the ghost turned and shuffled off into the cave. As Korky crept after him, still not quite sure that Herbie hadn't played some joke on him, he stumbled over a body lying on the ground. As Korky bent closer to see who it was, the body gave a low groan and sat up. Who should it turn out to be but HERBIE HIPPO!

Just then from the shadows in back of them came a moan.

"WHOOOOO . . ." went the noise.

Korky almost jumped out of his skin, for standing behind him was an eerie figure all clothed in white.

"W-w-who are you?" gasped Korky. "Don't tell me this place is *really* haunted."

With a chuckle, the ghost pulled the sheet from its face and there stood an old, grey-bearded goat.

"I'm no ghost, sonny," said the goat, "though I sure fooled you and those others. I'm just an old hermit who likes to be alone. . . . Henry, the Hermit, they call me. I like living here, so when I discovered what your friend was up to, I saw I'd never have any more privacy."

"I just pretended to be the ghost," he concluded, "to scare those animals away. Go on now, you young whippersnappers—beat it or I'll go down to town and tell what you tried to do to raise some money."

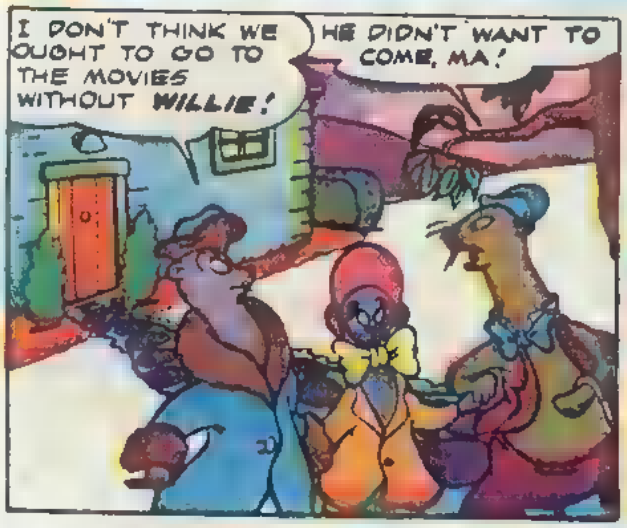
With a couple of gulps, Korky and Herbie took off as fast as their legs could carry them.

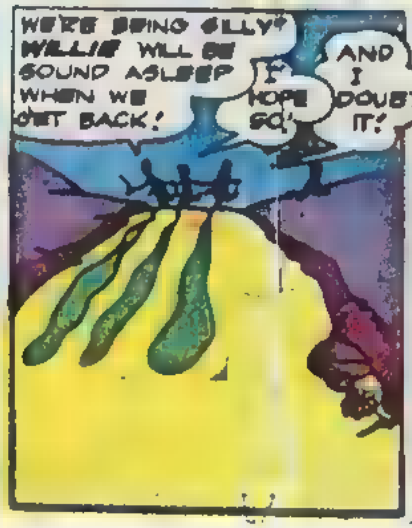
"That's the last time I try to make dough the easy way," gasped Korky. "That guy almost scared me outta ten years growth."

"You said it," grunted Herbie. "Did you ever think what would've happened if that'd been a REAL ghost?"

We could let the story end there, we suppose, but the truth of the matter is that everything turned out all right, after all. When Korky's mother heard from the animals in town how brave Korky had been in even trying to outface the "ghost" she had a change of heart and advanced him the money for the excursion, anyway. Korky took the money, of course, but he still can't look at a bedsheet to this day without getting goosepimples all over.

WILLIE the WEASEL





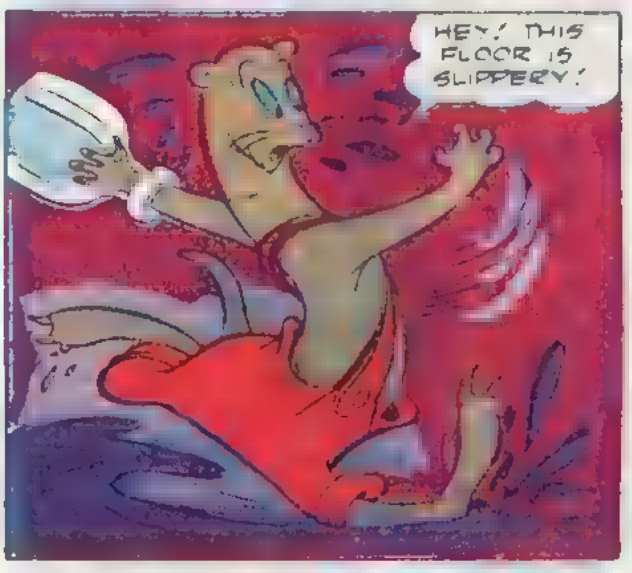
"DEATH COMES FOR YOU," HE SAID. "YOU WILL KNOW IT IS BESIDE YOU WHEN YOU HEAR..
YIPE! LEGGO OF ME!
CRASH
STAY BACK! DON'T..
ER GULP! THERE'S NOBODY HERE!
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T LISTEN TO THE RADIO SO MUCH!
CLICK!
BUT I HEARD A CRASH! SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM THE CELLAR!
I DON'T SEE ANYBODY! GUESS IT WAS JUST MY-

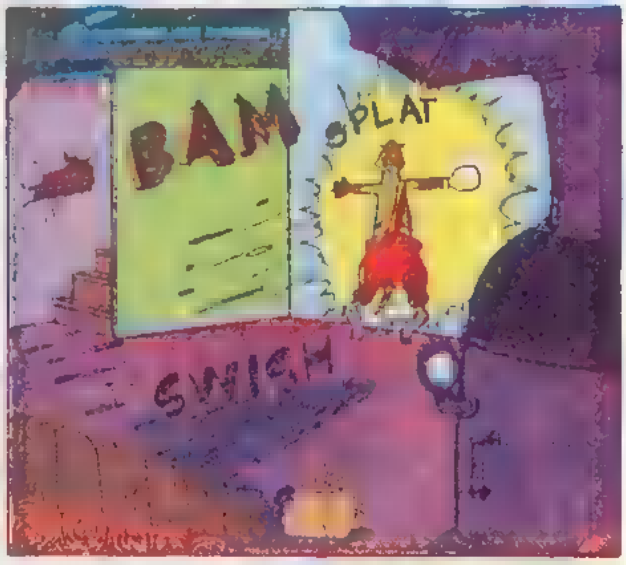
-IMAGINATION! ULP!
HELP! HE TRIED TO KILL ME!
BAM
YEOW
CRASH!
THUMP
MEOWRR!
HEH-HEH! IT WAS JUST THE CAT!
I CAN'T GET MY HAND OUT OF THIS JAR!
PUFF-PUFF! IT'S NO USE!
I'LL HAFTA USE GREASE! NOW WHERE DID PA PUT THAT CAN?
IT'S PRETTY HEAVY! I OUGHTA ... YIII!

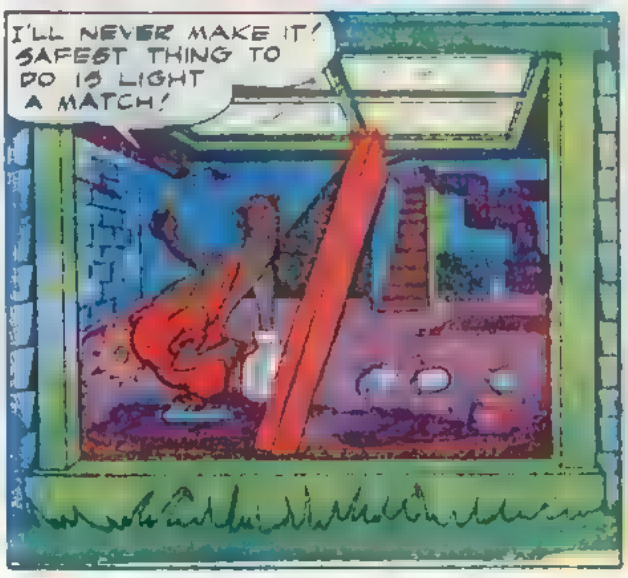
WHAM

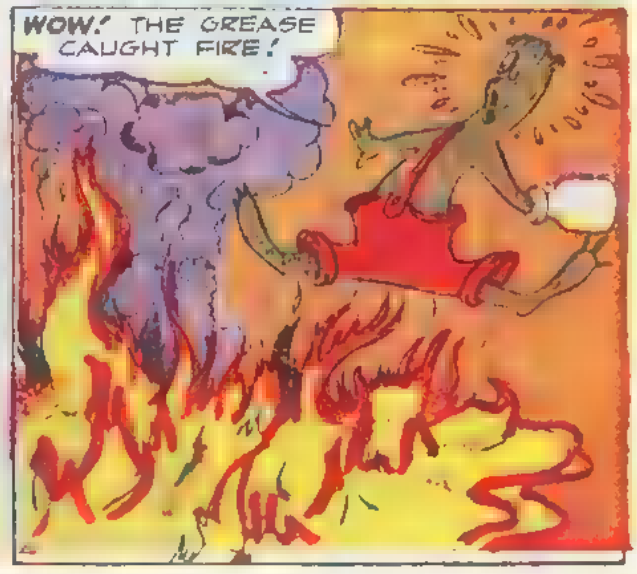
WELL, I FOUND THE CAN OF GREASE, ALL RIGHT!

TOO DARK IN THIS CELLAR! THAT'S THE TROUBLE! I'LL TURN ON THE LIGHTS!


HEY! THIS FLOOR IS SLIPPERY!


BAM
SPLAT
SWISH


I'LL NEVER MAKE IT! SAFEST THING TO DO IS LIGHT A MATCH!

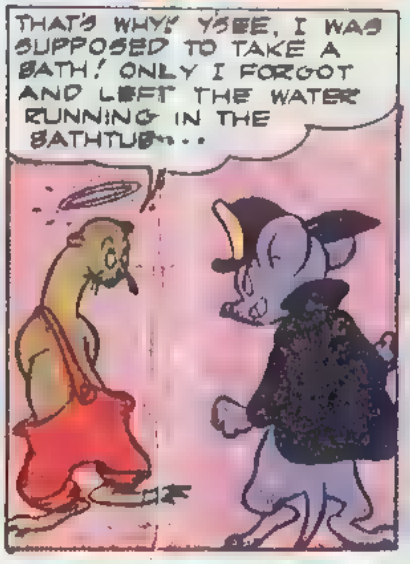

WOW! THE GREASE CAUGHT FIRE!

C'MON, CAT! WE'D BETTER LEAVE BY THE WINDOW!

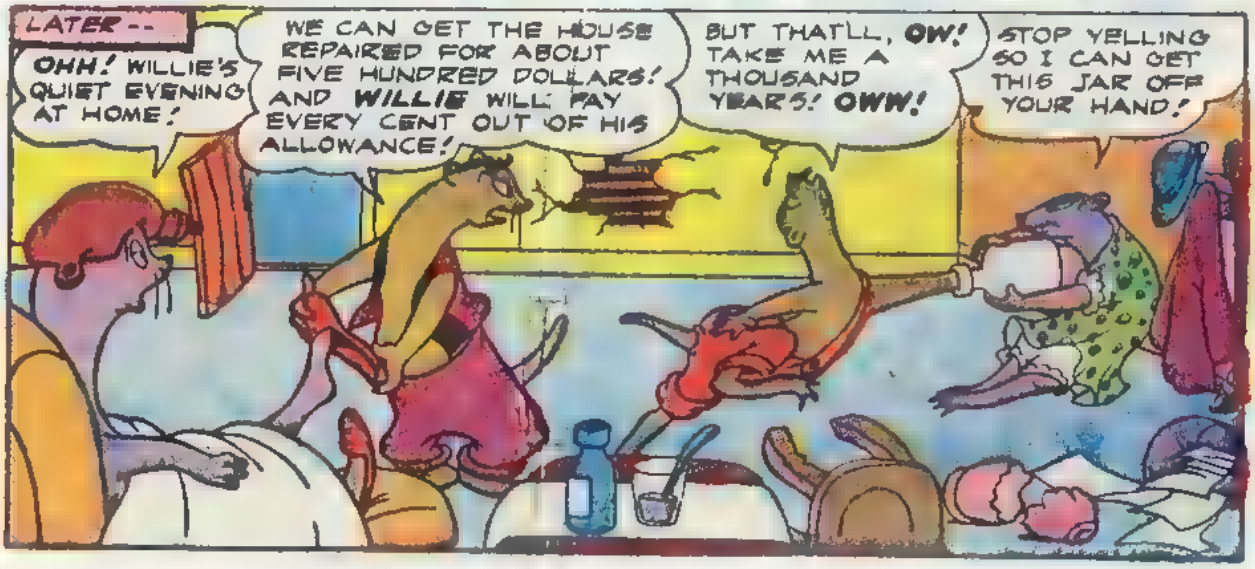
HERE COME THE FIRE ENGINES!
CLANG CLANG

YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING MR. FIREMAN!
WHY NOT? THERE'S A FIRE-- AIN'T THERE?

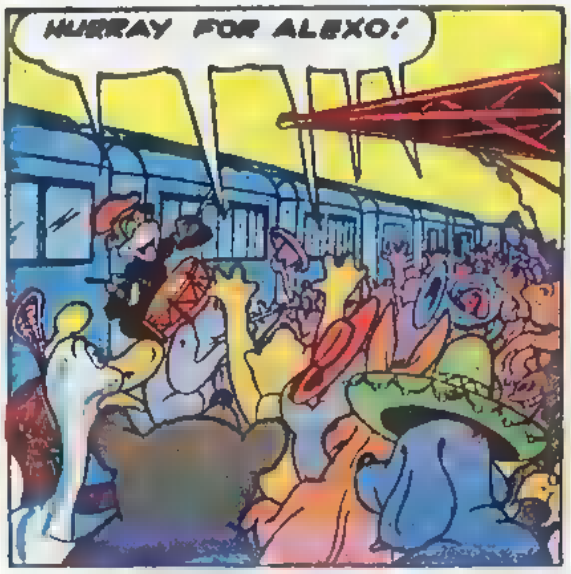
HELP!
WOOSH!
BLUB
BLUB


THAT'S WHY! YSEE, I WAS SUPPOSED TO TAKE A BATH! ONLY I FORGOT AND LEFT THE WATER RUNNING IN THE BATHTUB...

...AND THE WATER OVERFLOWED AND PUT OUT THE FIRE!


LATER--
OHH! WILLIE'S QUIET EVENING AT HOME!
WE CAN GET THE HOUSE REPAIRED FOR ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS! AND WILLIE WILL PAY EVERY CENT OUT OF HIS ALLOWANCE!
BUT THAT'LL, OW! TAKE ME A THOUSAND YEARS! OWW!
STOP YELLING SO I CAN GET THIS JAR OFF YOUR HAND!

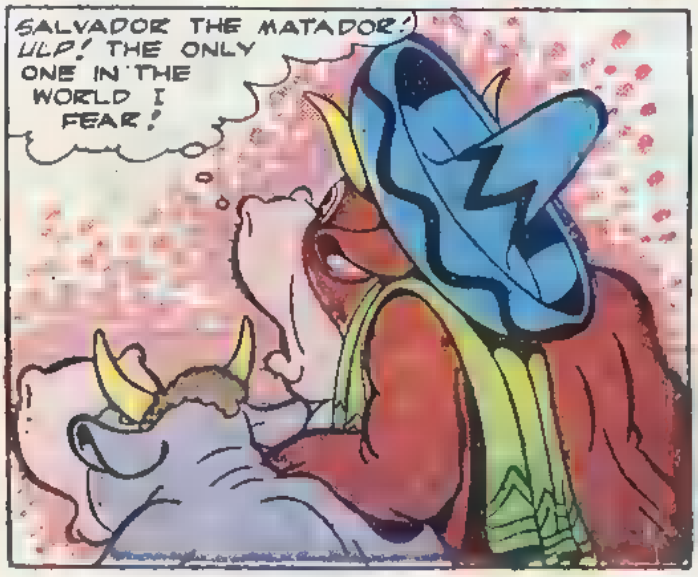
BOZO
THE BOWLEGGED BULL
ALEXO
THE WORLD'S CHAMPION BULL!
IN ALL MEXICO THERE IS NO BULL SO UNIVERSALLY ADMIRED AS ALEXO--
AND CHIEF AMONG ALEXO'S ADMIRER'S --- IS ALEXO!
AM I NOT WONDERFUL? YES, I AM! WHO CAN DENY IT ?!
BOZO!
WHO IS THE GREATEST BULL IN ALL MEXICO?
YOU ARE SIR! ANY FOOL KNOWS THAT! EVEN I KNOW IT!
YOU ARE SO RIGHT! WHEN DO I CATCH THE TRAIN?
IN HALF AN HOUR! AS USUAL THERE WILL BE A BIG CROWD WAITING TO WELCOME YOU!

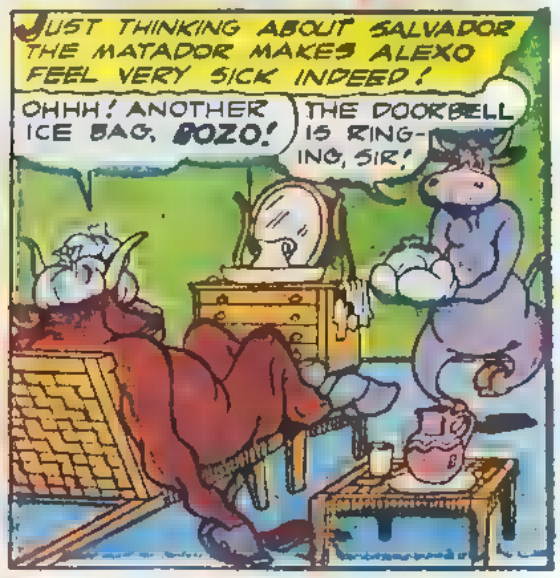

HURRAY FOR ALEXO!

WHO'S THAT DOPEY LOOKING CHARACTER WITH HIM?
ISN'T HE BIG AND STRONG?

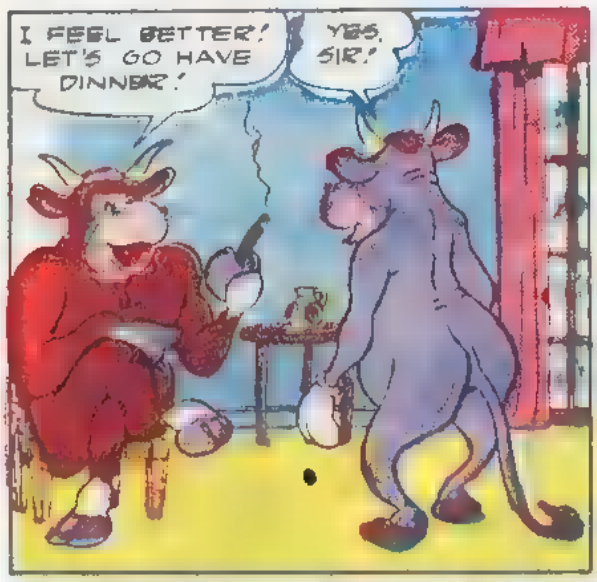
WHO AM I TO FIGHT THIS TIME?
OH, SOMEONE WORTHY OF YOUR GREAT STRENGTH, ALEXO!

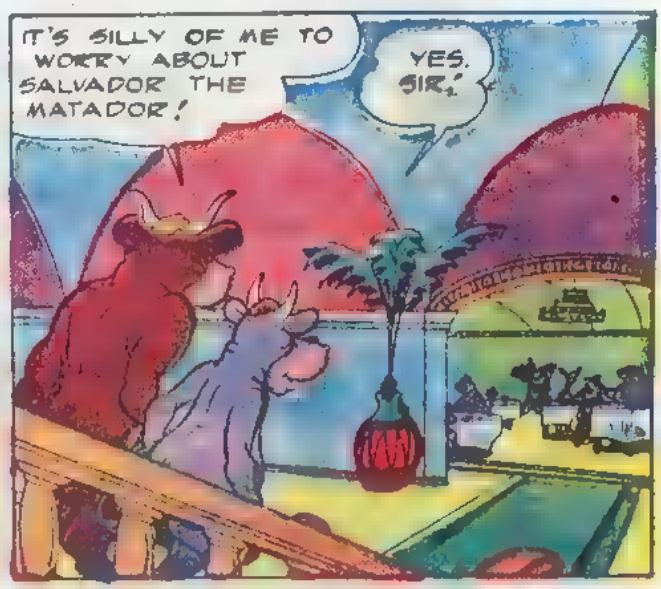
SALVADOR THE MATADOR
HE IS THE ONE!
TOTAL SCORE 1,567483 DEAD BULLS!

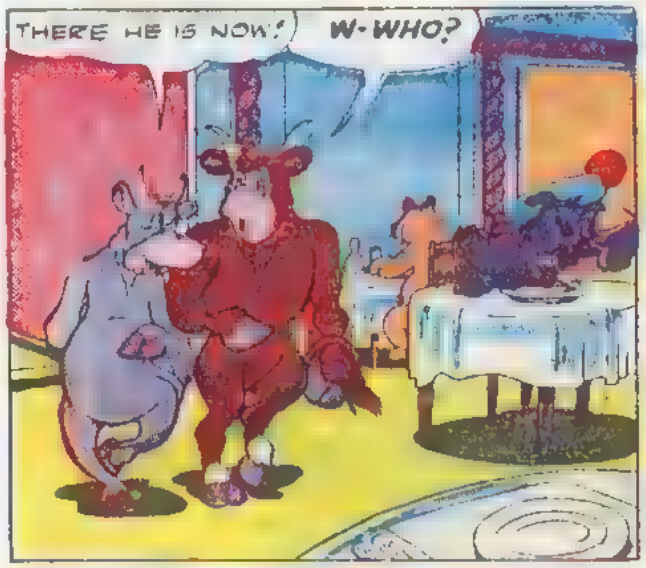

SALVADOR THE MATADOR! ULP! THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD I FEAR!

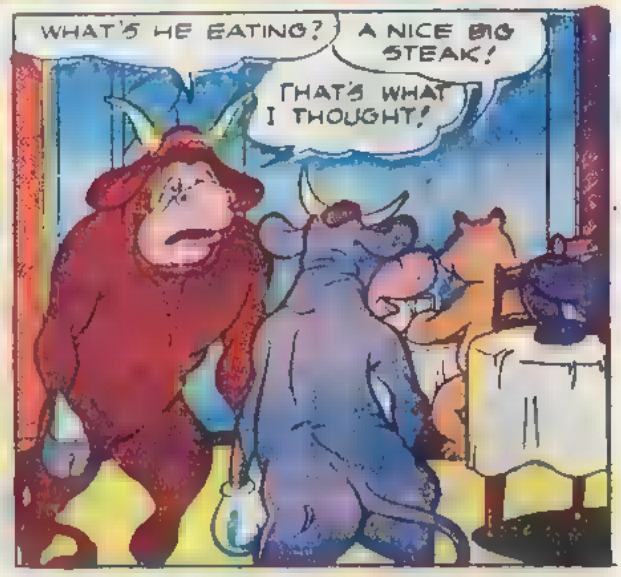

JUST THINKING ABOUT SALVADOR THE MATADOR MAKES ALEXO FEEL VERY SICK INDEED!
OHHH! ANOTHER ICE BAG, BOZO!
THE DOORBELL IS RING-ING, SIR!

IS ALEXO IN?
HE.. UH.. DOESN'T FEEL SO GOOD! WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
DAISY MAE! I'M A SECRET ADMIRER OF HIS!
YOU ARE?
TELL HIM I'LL THROW HIM A ROSE WHEN HE ENTERS THE ARENA TODAY! A ROSE JUST FOR HIM!
GEE!
GOSH! SHE CERTAINLY IS A SWEET GIRL!
I WISH I WASN'T SO BOWLEGGED! MAYBE SHE'D FALL FOR ME!
THAT WOULD BE WONDERFUL.. SIGH!
BOZO!
YES MASTER!

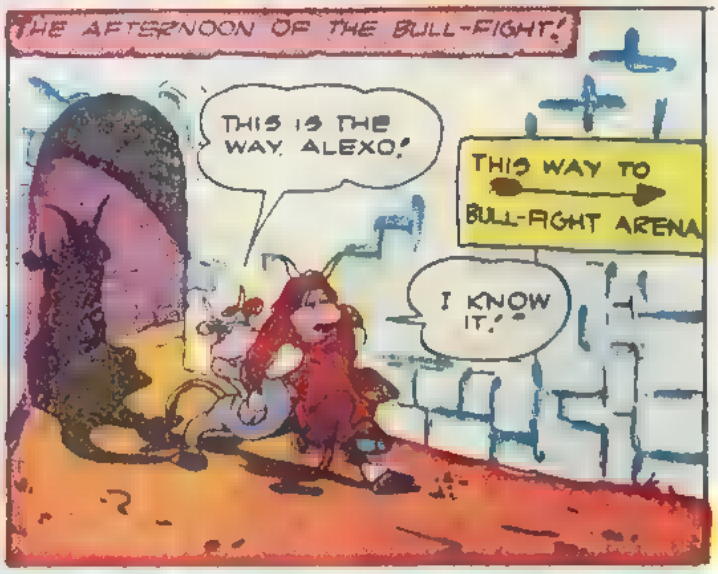

I FEEL BETTER! LET'S GO HAVE DINNER!
YES, SIR!

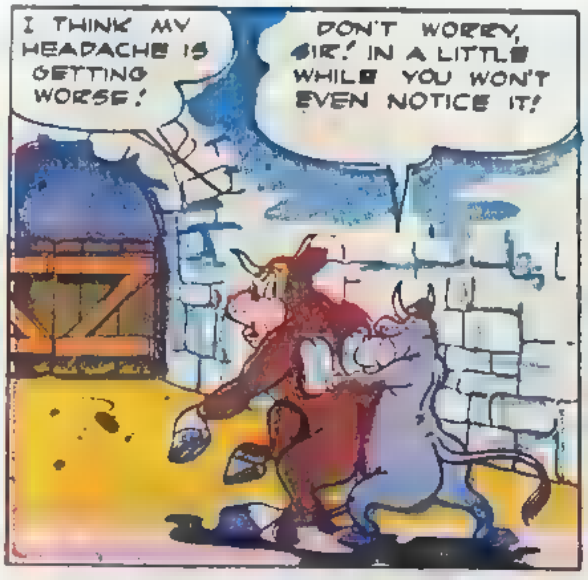

IT'S SILLY OF ME TO WORRY ABOUT SALVADOR THE MATADOR!
YES, SIR!

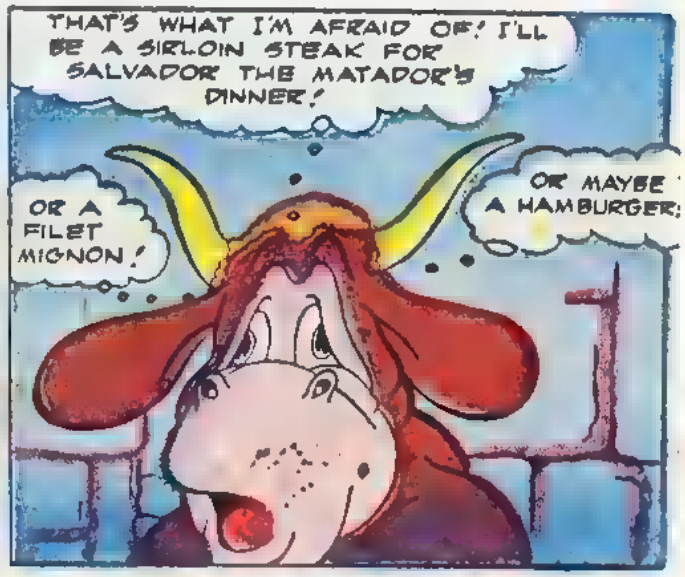

THERE HE IS NOW!
W-WHO?

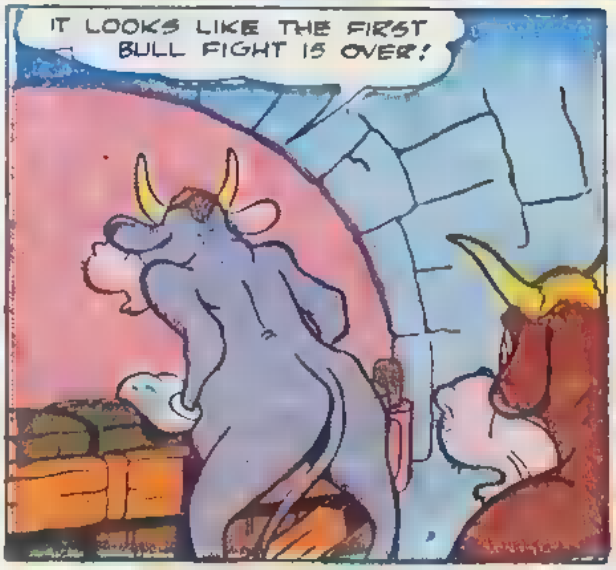

WHAT'S HE EATING?
A NICE BIG STEAK!
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT!

ALEXO!
PLOP!

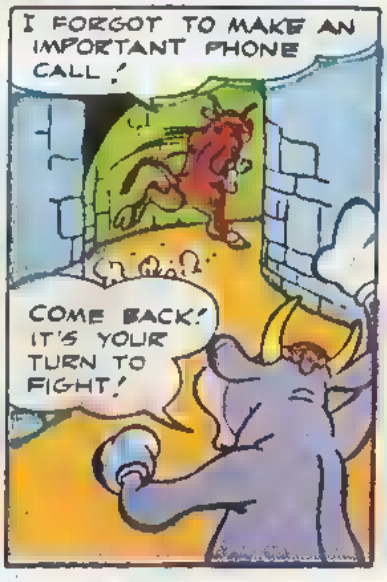

THE AFTERNOON OF THE BULL-FIGHT!
THIS IS THE WAY, ALEXO!
THIS WAY TO BULL-FIGHT ARENA
I KNOW IT!


I THINK MY HEADACHE IS GETTING WORSE!
DON'T WORRY, SIR! IN A LITTLE WHILE YOU WON'T EVEN NOTICE IT!


THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF! I'LL BE A SIRLOIN STEAK FOR SALVADOR THE MATADOR'S DINNER!
OR A FILET MIGNON!
OR MAYBE A HAMBURGER!

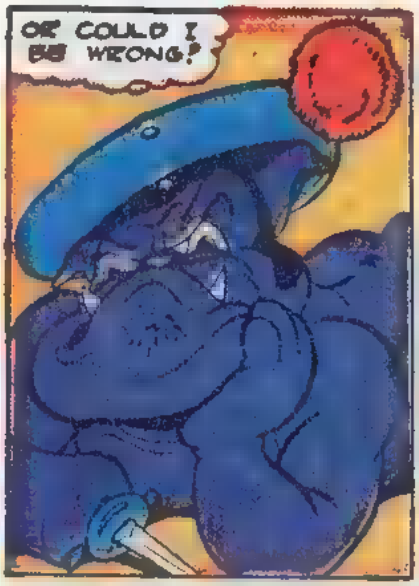

IT LOOKS LIKE THE FIRST BULL FIGHT IS OVER!

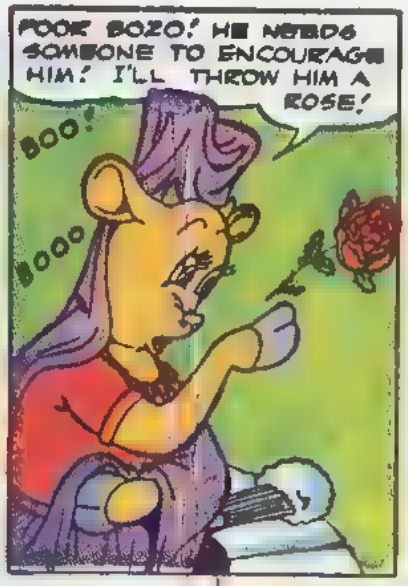
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
HE NEVER HAD A CHANCE! HE FOUGHT SALVADOR THE MATADOR!


I FORGOT TO MAKE AN IMPORTANT PHONE CALL!
COME BACK! IT'S YOUR TURN TO FIGHT!

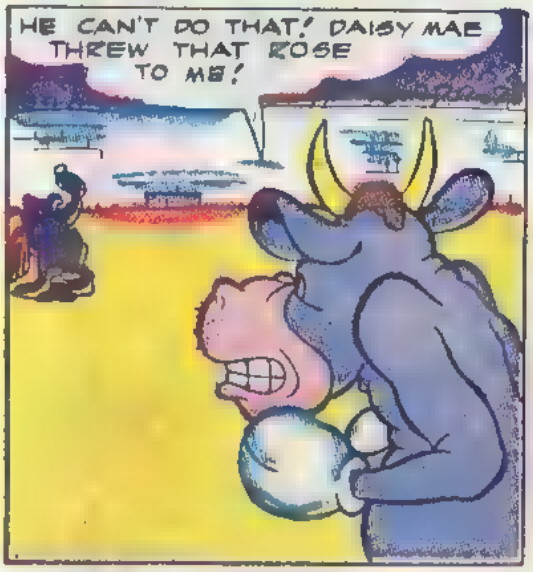
HE'S GONE! I'D BETTER EXPLAIN TO THE CROWD WHY ALEXO WON'T APPEAR!

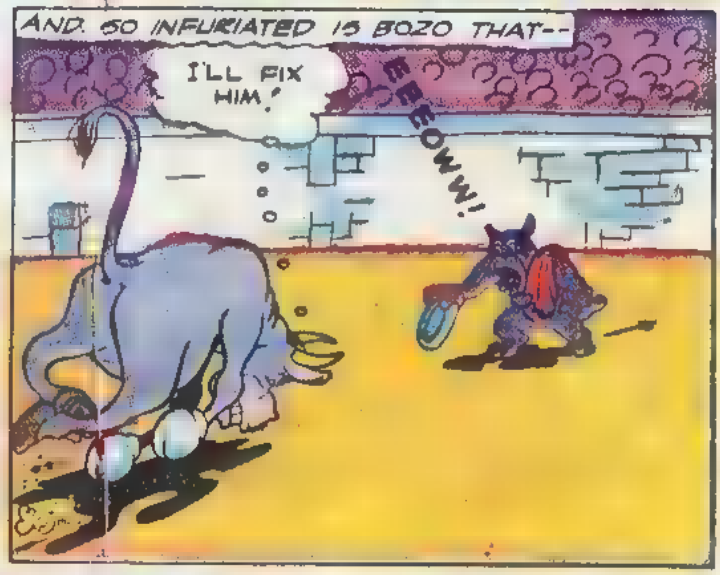
HERE WE COMES!
HURRAY!
IS THAT THE GREAT ALEXO?
HE DOESN'T LOOK VERY STRONG OR BRAVE!
LISTEN, FOLKS, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--
OH-OH!
I DON'T THINK SALVADOR UNDERSTANDS EITHER!
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT ANYBODY!
COME BACK! COBARDE! COWARD!
NO BULL CAN MAKE A FOOL OUT OF SALVADOR!

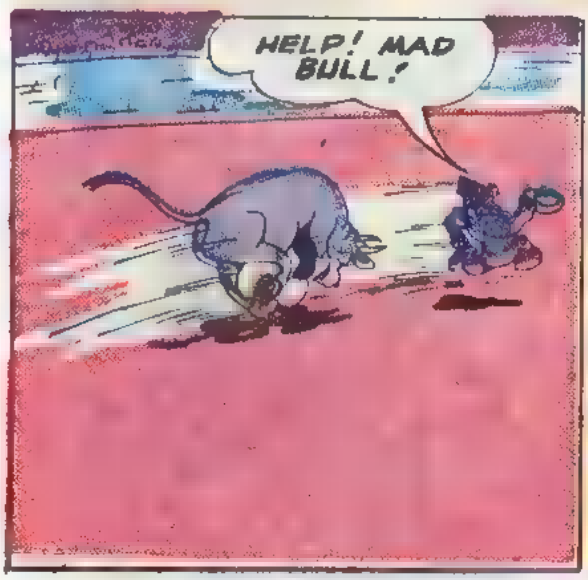

OR COULD I BE WRONG?

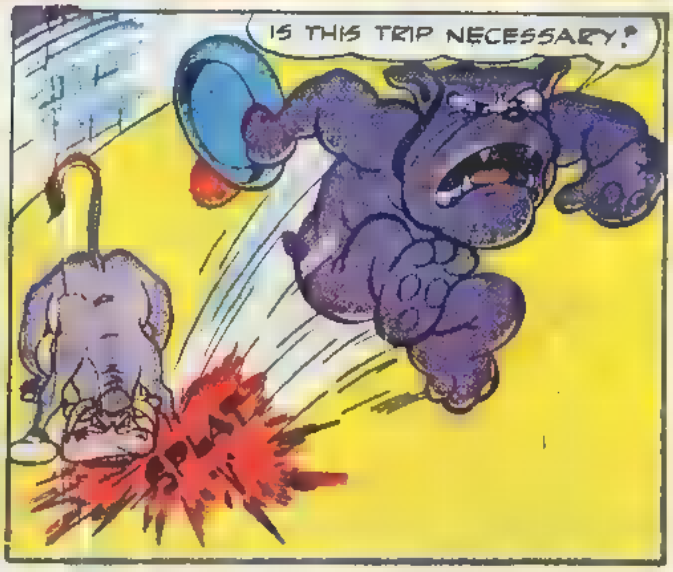

POOR BOZO! HE NEEDS SOMEONE TO ENCOURAGE HIM! I'LL THROW HIM A ROSE!
BOO!
BOOO

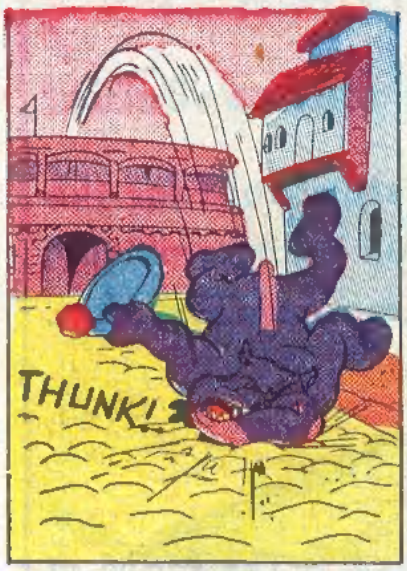
AH, THANK YOU! THANK YOU!


HE CAN'T DO THAT! DAISY MAE THREW THAT ROSE TO ME!


AND, SO INFURIATED IS BOZO THAT--
I'LL FIX HIM!
EEEOWW!


HELP! MAD BULL!

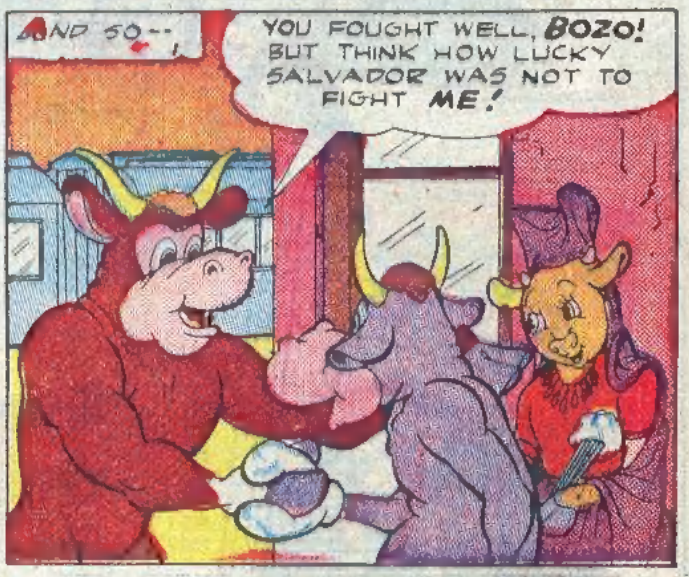

IS THIS TRIP NECESSARY?
SPLAT

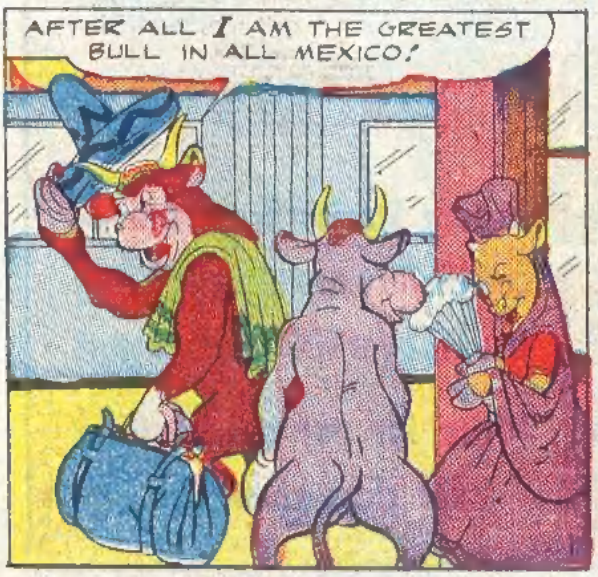

THUNK!

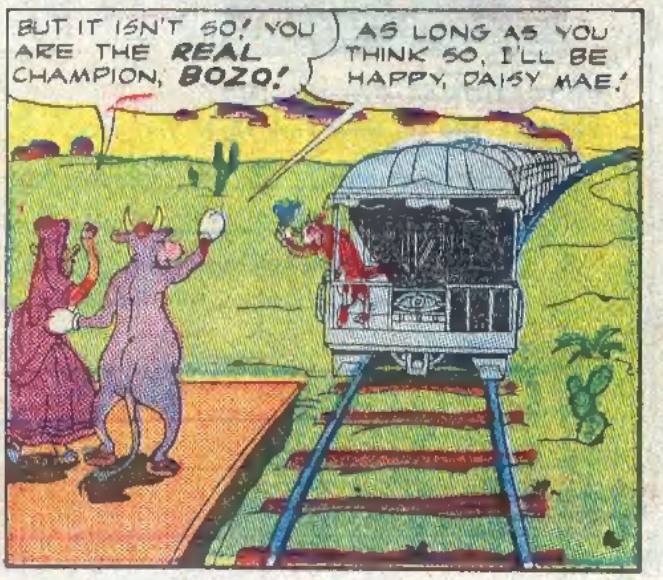
OH, WELL! IT WAS TIME I RETIRED ANYWAY!

THREE CHEERS FOR BOZO!
HIP!... HIP!... HOORAY!

DAISY MAE IS SUCH A NICE GIRL!


AND SO--
YOU FOUGHT WELL, BOZO! BUT THINK HOW LUCKY SALVADOR WAS NOT TO FIGHT ME!


AFTER ALL I AM THE GREATEST BULL IN ALL MEXICO!


BUT IT ISN'T SO! YOU ARE THE REAL CHAMPION, BOZO!
AS LONG AS YOU THINK SO, I'LL BE HAPPY, DAISY MAE!

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